

## PENDING LEGISLATION

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# HEARING

BEFORE THE

## SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

OF THE

## COMMITTEE ON

## ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

## UNITED STATES SENATE

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION  
ON

S. 119	S. 1993
S. 651/H.R. 1289	S. 2039
S. 718	S. 2061
S. 770	S. 2177/H.R. 959
S. 1329/H.R. 2288	S. 2309
S. 1577	S. 2608
S. 1930/H.R. 3371	S. 2620
S. 1943	S. 2628
S. 1975	H.R. 1949
S. 1982	H.R. 2880

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MARCH 17, 2016

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The text for each of the bills which were addressed in this hearing can be found on the committee's website at: <http://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings-and-business-meetings?ID=DEDE40F9-C1A9-410E-8F9E-DA68841AC019>.

## **PENDING LEGISLATION**

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**Thursday, March 17, 2016**

U.S. SENATE,  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS,  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES,  
*Washington, DC.*

The Subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 3:02 p.m. in room SD-366, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Bill Cassidy, Chairman of the Subcommittee, presiding.

### **OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. BILL CASSIDY, U.S. SENATOR FROM LOUISIANA**

Senator CASSIDY [presiding]. The Subcommittee will come to order.

I will keep my opening statement brief seeing as we have a full agenda examining 24 bills pending before the Subcommittee. The bills examine and cover a wide range of issues relating to the federal land administered by the Department of Interior and the Forest Service including National Park designations, special resource studies and boundary adjustments, memorial authorizations, a Wild and Scenic River designation and other related issues.

Five of these bills have passed the House of Representatives, a few of these bills have been heard before in this Subcommittee and still others have been considered in previous Congresses.

Although not all of these bills are without controversy, I am hopeful that we can move through the bills fairly quickly.

The purpose of this hearing is to consider the Administration's views on these bills and allow Committee members an opportunity to ask any questions. We will also include any written statements that have been sent to the Subcommittee in the official hearing record.

Again, because of the large number of bills on today's agenda I will not read through the list. We have one witness today, Ms. Peggy O'Dell, Deputy Director of Operations for the National Park Service. I wish to thank Ms. O'Dell for being here.

Now let me turn to the Ranking Member, Senator Heinrich, for his remarks.

### **STATEMENT OF HON. MARTIN HEINRICH, U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW MEXICO**

Senator HEINRICH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for scheduling this hearing which includes 20 legislative proposals addressing a variety of national park and public land issues in several states across our great nation.

Later this summer the National Park Service will celebrate its centennial anniversary. The many bills on today's agenda demonstrate the continued interest in building on the first 100 years by adding other important sites to the National Park System and protecting important natural, historic and cultural resources which will enable us to better protect and understand the rich and diverse history of our country.

Among others, I am pleased to see included the bill from Senator Tester and Senator Daines to designate part of the East Rosebud Creek as a Wild and Scenic River. I know protecting East Rosebud has been a priority for Montanans for many years now. We have four Wild and Scenic Rivers in New Mexico and they are certainly some of my constituents' favorite places to kayak, fish and camp with their families.

In addition to many site-specific proposals, we are also going to be considering a bill to establish a 21st Century Conservation Service Corps to bring together many of the existing youth conservation corps programs into a single organization.

I have a few questions about how that program would be implemented, and I look forward to hearing more on this and the other bills from the National Park Service witness.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

Senator CASSIDY: Thank you, Senator Heinrich.

Senator Barrasso, would you like to make a—

Senator BARRASSO: I will yield for Senator Mikulski.

Senator CASSIDY: Okay.

Senator Mikulski.

#### **STATEMENT OF HON. BARBARA MIKULSKI, U.S. SENATOR FROM MARYLAND**

Senator MIKULSKI. Good afternoon, Chairman Cassidy and Senator Heinrich, Senator Barrasso.

I am here on behalf of the 20 women of the United States Senate to ask you to consider the bill authorizing the Sewall-Belmont House to be a national park site. This legislative initiative has the support of your Chair, Senator Murkowski, the Ranking Member, Senator Cantwell, and members of this Committee.

As you talk about the centennial for the National Park Service, be aware that we are coming upon in 2020 the centennial for the passage of the 19th Amendment which gave women the right to vote. The Sewall-Belmont House was an important part of that American history. Though the house goes back to the 19th century, its importance was not so much its architectural features but the fact that it became the home to the women's party headed up by the indomitable Alice Paul.

Many of you know this building because it is right next door to the Hart building. When the Hart building was being constructed there was a whole move to tear the house down. It was then, through the efforts of the women of the House led by Congresswoman Schroeder, Peggy Heckler, a bipartisan initiative, to make it a historic site.

Well now the building has aged in place and so many of its resources are now going into the building so that they're cutting out

their public tours, their educational programs and their research requests.

We're asking that the Sewall-Belmont become part of the National Park Service because number one, the building can be maintained and preserved. The content of the building, the Alice Paul and the Women's Suffrage Collection will retain. You won't have to take ownership of that and all that goes into maintaining the collection. We'll take ownership of the building.

We then hope with the new, if we confirm the new head of the Library of Congress, but the Library of Congress will work with them on the content.

We've only, you know, we would hope that with all that the Park Service has on it why yet one more building? Well, one, this is quite a very important role in our American history.

Number two, because of its symmetry to the Capitol you either have to maintain that building or the building could just go. It would be a very sad commentary if such a historic site, right within our very own eyes, would do that.

So we ask that the Committee consider the transfer of the Sewall-Belmont House to do this and that it then become, through our work and also through private donors and so on, to be able to play a role in the commemoration of the passage of the 19th amendment.

I think you would all say the work of Alice Paul, when you look at Senator Lisa, Senator Maria and so many of those of us who you admire, you would want this to go on. So that's what I'd ask you to do today.

Senator CASSIDY. Thank you, Senator Mikulski.

Senator MIKULSKI. And I ask unanimous consent that my full statement be in the record. We won't march. We won't wear banners unless you don't pass the bill. [Laughter.]

Thank you very much.

Senator CASSIDY. Without objection it is included in the record. [The information referred to follows:]

**Statement of U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski,  
Before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources Subcommittee  
on National Parks,  
Concerning S. 1975, the Sewall-Belmont House Act of 2015**

Mr. Chair, Mr. Ranking Member, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of S. 1975, the *Sewall-Belmont House Act of 2015*, which would authorize the Sewall-Belmont House & Museum as a full unit of the National Park System. Sewall-Belmont is a critical piece of our nation's history that is in urgent need of federal support.

Sewall-Belmont was the home of the National Woman's Party and its leader Alice Paul, who marshaled four generations of activists to work to end legal, social and economic discrimination against women. Her perseverance brought the movement for women's suffrage over the finish line with the enactment of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution, and her strategies and techniques became the blueprint for civil rights organizations throughout the twentieth century. Today Sewall-Belmont helps tell the story of this important chapter in our nation's history.

Sewall-Belmont was more than a house – it was a home to great minds and leaders, thanks to the generosity of women like Alva Belmont. It was a place where women could live, rest, and work without fear of harassment while they fought boldly for the ballot. In the 1970s, when they were threatening to tear down this building to make way for the Senate offices, Pat Schroeder and the women of the House rallied to save it. Now it's a museum where today's generation can learn about the courageous women who came before them. This house has always been the scene of making history, and has always stood for women's empowerment.

However, today Sewall-Belmont is in dire need of federal support if it is to continue to serve the public. While the National Woman's Party has been successfully operating the House and managing its historic collection, it has been forced to cut back on public tours, research requests, and educational programs due to the growing capital needs of managing an aging building.

Sewall-Belmont is a National Historic Landmark, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and one of four designations supported by the Save America's Treasures legislation. Last summer, the National Park Service completed a feasibility study concluding that Sewall-Belmont's deep historical significance and unique contribution to our nation's history warrants its full inclusion into the National Park Service. This would not only give it the resources it needs to continue to educate the public, but would send a powerful message that women's history is an important part of our nation's history.

Women fought for decades against great onslaught to secure the right to vote. Now, we not only have the right to vote, but we have twenty women in the United States Senate, including the distinguished Chair and Ranking Member of this committee. When I arrived in the Senate in 1986, I was the first Democratic woman elected in her own right, and the sixteenth woman to serve. There are more women serving right this minute, today – fourteen Democrats and six Republicans – than had served in all of American history when I arrived. Wouldn't Alice Paul be so proud?

I am so proud of all of the accomplishments made by the women of the Senate. But we didn't get here by ourselves. Not a single one of us would be here without Alice Paul and the National Woman's Party. That's why it's so important that we not only preserve the place where they fought for women's full inclusion in society, the Sewall-Belmont House, but elevate it to its rightful spot among our nation's most important national treasures.

There are very few sites in the National Park System that celebrate women's history. I thank the Committee especially for its work in 2014 to honor another trailblazing woman, Harriet Tubman, by authorizing the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park in Cambridge, Maryland. But we must do more.

Today, women have the right to vote and the right to be on the ballot. But we have so much more to accomplish to become fully equal members of society. It is critical that we remind today's generation of women and men of this long and important history so that we can keep in mind the lessons learned from these movements as we march toward full equality. As I serve my last term in the United States Senate, there is nothing more important to me than preserving the legacy of this fight. I thank the Committee for this opportunity to submit testimony and for its consideration of the *Sewall-Belmont House Act of 2015*, and I urge its swift passage.

Senator CASSIDY. Senator Barrasso.

**STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN BARRASSO, U.S. SENATOR FROM WYOMING**

Senator BARRASSO. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for holding this important hearing.

One hundred years of service by the National Park Service is truly a remarkable achievement. Reaching such a milestone makes it even more important that current park assets remain open, safe, well maintained and attractive to the public.

In my home State of Wyoming, Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Park experienced a record number of visitors this past year and they expect the same coming up in the year ahead.

Several of the bills that we are considering today suggest adding important historic sites to the ever growing list of resources managed by the Park Service. When making these additions and looking forward to the next 100 hundred years of the National Park Service, I think it is just important, Mr. Chairman, that Congress and the Park Service make sound, responsible choices.

I remain very concerned about the agency's ability to ensure the safety, the health and enjoyment of the public, let alone management of future assets in light of the maintenance backlog that we currently have. So I hope we will be able to discuss that as well today.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator CASSIDY. Thank you, Senator Barrasso.

All members' statements will be added to the record.

It is time to hear from our witness, and we could not have a better witness on St. Patrick's Day than Ms. O'Dell, who is not wearing green.

We will just let that—

Ms. O'DELL. I didn't want to be obvious. [Laughter.]

Senator CASSIDY. Ms. O'Dell is the Deputy Director of the National Park Service. I understand you are also presenting testimony from the Forest Service on a couple of these bills and thank you for doing so.

At the end of your testimony we will begin questions and your full written testimony will be made part of the official hearing record.

Ms. O'Dell, please proceed.

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

Ms. O'DELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

One correction, I believe the Forest Service has submitted a written statement on their bill, so I will not be addressing that today.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on the 19 bills that deal with the National Park Service on today's agenda. I would like to submit our full statement on each of these bills for the record and summarize the Department's views. So I will begin a long litany of numbers of bills and try to be very short and sweet so you can have questions.

The Department supports the following bills:

S. 2177 and H.R. 959 which would authorize a special resource study of the Medgar Evers House,

S. 651 and H.R. 1289 which would authorize the Department to acquire by donation 44 acres of land for the John Muir Historic Site,

H.R. 2880 which would re-designate the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site as the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park,

S. 718 which would modify the boundary of Petersburg National Battlefield,

S. 1943 which would modify the boundary of Shiloh National Military Park and establish Parkers Crossroads Battlefield as an affiliated area of the National Park System,

S. 1975 which would establish the Sewell-Belmont House National Historic Site as a unit of the National Park System,

S. 1993 which would establish the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps,

S. 2309 which would establish the U.S. Civil Rights Network within the National Park Service,

S. 2620 which would facilitate the addition of Park Administration at the Coltsville National Historical Park, and

S. 2628 which would authorize the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia.

The reasons for our support of these bills are explained in our full statements.

For several of the bills we are requesting amendments which we would be happy to work with the Committee on drafting.

Regarding H.R. 2288 and S. 1329 which would remove the restrictions on certain lands transferred to Rockingham County, Virginia, the Department supports H.R. 2288 and would support S. 1329 if amended to conform to the language in H.R. 2288.

Also regarding S. 1930 and H.R. 3371 which would authorize a boundary adjustment to Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, the Department supports S. 1930 and would support H.R. 3371 if amended to conform to the language in S. 1930.

The Department supports the intent of S. 119 which would provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service connected disability. We believe many of our nation's veterans are already eligible for a free or reduced price pass under the Federal Lands and Recreation Enhancement Act. Also, it is unclear how we would determine the loss in total receipts in order to meet the bill's requirement to adjust entrance fees to compensate for lost revenue.

The Department would support, if amended, S. 770 which would provide authority to Escambia County, Florida to convey property subject to certain conditions that it received from the Federal Government in 1947. The bill is intended to resolve a long standing, land use issue with the county. However, the Department would like to ensure that this bill does not result in the removal of protection for undeveloped lands that remain from the 1947 conveyance.

The Department defers to the Department of Education for a position on S. 2061 which would designate a national memorial to fallen educators.

Regarding S. 2039 which would designate the Mountain at Devil's Tower National Monument as Devil's Tower, the Department is concerned about any decisions made by this legislation without taking into account the views of the tribes in the area.

Regarding S. 2608 which would require the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to place signage denoting the American Discovery Trail on federal land, the Department would not oppose if amended to make the authority discretionary rather than mandatory.

The Department opposes H.R. 1949 which would direct that the Secretary of Agriculture rather than the Secretary of the Interior or the Administrator of GSA be responsible for the consideration and submission of site and design proposals for the National Liberty Memorial. We believe this legislation would complicate the process for a memorial establishment under the Commemorative Works Act and would likely lead to delays in the establishment of the National Liberty Memorial.

Finally, the Department opposes S. 1982 which would authorize a wall of remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial because it would significantly alter the character of the existing memorial and it is inconsistent with the Commemorative Works Act.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I'd be pleased to answer any questions that you have.

[The prepared statement of Ms. O'Dell follows:]

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE  
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 119, A BILL TO AMEND  
THE FEDERAL LANDS RECREATION ENHANCEMENT ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A  
LIFETIME NATIONAL RECREATION PASS FOR ANY VETERAN WITH A SERVICE-  
CONNECTED DISABILITY**

**March 17, 2016**

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Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 119, a bill to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability.

The Department supports the intent of this bill to honor the service of our veterans, but would like to work with the committee to address the issues that are discussed in this statement.

S. 119 would amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) to make a lifetime America the Beautiful—the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass available, without cost, to a veteran with a service-connected disability, as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code. It would further require the Secretary to adjust entrance fees applicable to other visitors to ensure that there is not a loss in total entrance fee receipts due to implementation of this new pass.

Men and women who have served in the armed forces have made tremendous contributions to this country, and we honor their service. In 2006, the agencies began offering fee-free days in honor of veterans at recreation fee sites across the country. Every year since 2006, the agencies have established at least one fee-free day to honor veterans.

Although veterans with service-connected disabilities are not specifically mentioned in FLREA, many of our nation's veterans are already eligible for a free or reduced-priced pass. These passes include the Senior Pass, granting lifetime access to U.S. citizens over 62 for \$10, and the Access Pass, granting free lifetime access for permanently disabled U.S. citizens.

The Department is concerned with the provision in the bill that requires the Secretary to adjust entrance fees to ensure that there is not a loss in total receipts. If enacted, this provision would require the Secretary to raise the entrance fees on all other users, including low-income families, which would put an undue burden on other visitors.

With the fee-free day in honor of veterans, and the eligibility of many veterans for the Senior Pass or the Access Pass, we believe that the agencies are providing honor and recognition for the men and women who have served our nation in the armed forces. If the committee moves forward with this legislation, we would like to work with you, and the U.S. Forest Service and

the Department of Veterans Affairs, to address a number of logistical, cost and other implementation issues associated with adding this benefit.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I would be happy to answer any questions you or the other members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE  
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 651 and H.R. 1289, BILLS  
TO ADJUST THE BOUNDARY OF JOHN MUIR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE TO  
ACCEPT A LAND DONATION.**

**March 17, 2016**

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Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 651 and H.R. 1289, bills to adjust the boundary of John Muir National Historic Site to accept a land donation, and for other purposes.

The Department strongly supports this legislation to adjust the boundary of John Muir National Historic Site (park) by 44 acres, but we recommend the committee conform the language of S. 651 to that of H.R. 1289 for the reasons described below. The boundary adjustment would help the National Park Service (NPS) protect the southern boundary from potential development and also help to preserve the scenic and biological resources of this property.

The proposed boundary modification includes 44 acres of land acquired by the John Muir Land Trust (formerly the Muir Heritage Lands Trust) adjacent to the southern boundary of the park. The John Muir Land Trust (Trust), a local land trust preserving open space in Contra Costa County, acquired the property in May 2015. The Trust pursued the acquisition for a number of years in an attempt to prevent development adjacent to the park's south boundary, with the intent of donating the land to the NPS to become part of the park. S. 651 requires that the Trust acquire the land by August 31, 2015, while H.R. 1289 has no similar language. We prefer the House language because the Trust has already acquired the land.

The parcel was originally part of the John Swett Ranch, a neighbor and friend of John Muir, and there are no structures present on the property. The property is critical habitat for the Alameda whipsnake, federally listed as threatened. This acquisition would open up the area to recreational uses that are currently inaccessible to the public, but compatible with the protection and preservation of the plant communities and critical species habitat. There are existing unimproved roads on the site, which connect to the exiting trail access in the park and would require little if any improvements for immediate use.

The boundary modification is supported by the City of Martinez. It is not anticipated that any facilities would be proposed for the 44-acre parcel due to its current undeveloped and undisturbed condition. Therefore, there would be minimal cost associated with the long-term operation and maintenance of the property, which would be easily absorbed into the current operations of the park. The property is being donated, so acquisition costs are not an issue.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE  
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 718, A BILL TO MODIFY  
THE BOUNDARY OF PETERSBURG NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD IN THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**March 17, 2016**

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Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 718, a bill to modify the boundary of Petersburg National Battlefield in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 718 with amendments described later in this statement.

S. 718 has two components. First, the bill would expand the authorized boundary of Petersburg National Battlefield by approximately 7,238 acres. The boundary expansion proposal results from an analysis of “core battlefields” and a subsequent boundary adjustment study conducted as part of Petersburg National Battlefield’s General Management Plan completed in 2004. Second, the bill would effect a land exchange between the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of the Army involving approximately one acre.

The City of Petersburg lies in the corridor of intensive growth from Washington, D.C., to south of Richmond, Virginia. The region surrounding Petersburg National Battlefield has been experiencing significant development pressures impacting areas immediately adjacent to the park and unprotected battlefield sites. This development not only threatens park resources and public enjoyment but also the core portions of the battlefields.

The park commemorates the Petersburg Campaign, the longest sustained combative military front on American soil, in both time and distance. When Congress created the park in 1926, only a fraction of the battlefield acreage associated with the 26 major battles of the Petersburg Campaign was included in the boundary. The additional lands proposed to be added to the park by S. 718 would allow the public to better understand the size, complexity, and duration of the 9½ month Petersburg Campaign and siege while offering protection to existing park resources.

In 2002, in response to significant development pressures in the region surrounding the park and as part of its General Management Plan process, Petersburg National Battlefield undertook a detailed assessment of battlefields in the Petersburg Campaign cited in the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC) report of 1993 entitled “Report on the Nation’s Civil War Battlefields.” The CWSAC report identified 100,000 acres of the Petersburg battlefields as “core battlefields” encompassing all of the critical phases defined for a battle. Of the 100,000 acres cited, 23,000 acres were determined to retain historic integrity.

During its more detailed analyses of the 23,000 acres, the park concentrated on those portions of the battlefields that were south of the Appomattox River and directly associated with the siege or

defense of Petersburg, and that were identified as Class A (decisive) and Class B (major) by the CWSAC. Additionally, the park used historical maps and documentation to further refine the acreage to that constituting the portion of the battlefield on which both armies were engaged directly and that had a bearing on the outcome for each battle. Park staff further analyzed the integrity of these areas and their potential for public access and interpretation. The analyses found that 7,238 acres met the criteria for integrity and interpretability.

The estimated time period for acquisition of the 7,238 acres of these nationally significant lands is 15-20 years. Virtually all of the land subject to the boundary adjustment represents a mixture of private and non-profit organization-owned parcels. Agricultural and conservation easements will be the preferred method of acquisition for most parcels. Easements enable protection of these battlefields from inappropriate development while retaining private ownership and compatible use of the land. Where easements are not possible, and there is interest by the landowners, other acquisition methods, such as donation and fee simple acquisition from willing sellers based on available funding, will be utilized for battlefield preservation.

Under a 2008 estimate, the total estimated cost of purchasing in fee simple all of the 7,238 acres would be \$29.7 million. Protection of land through easements and donations, which is anticipated for a large portion of the lands, would likely significantly lower acquisition costs and is the Department's preferred method of protection. The estimated cost for capital expenses (trails, wayside exhibits, rehabilitation of existing visitor contact station, etc.) and expansion-related costs (surveys, hazardous materials studies, etc.) is \$1.9 million. Development of visitor services and interpretation at these new battlefield locations would be minimal and include small parking areas, wayside exhibits, and trails and other enhancements to the sites. The annual increase in park operation and maintenance is estimated to be \$531,000. Development and operational numbers are in 2014 dollars. All funds would be subject to NPS priorities and the availability of appropriations.

Public response to the General Management Plan and the proposed boundary expansion has been favorable among local governments, organizations, and individuals. The Dinwiddie County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution supporting future legislation to expand the boundary of the park as outlined in the General Management Plan. Many civic organizations in the Petersburg region have also indicated support for the proposal.

The bill would also effect a transfer of administrative jurisdiction between the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Interior involving two small parcels of land. Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, the Army was required to erect a perimeter fence around the Fort Lee Military Reservation, located adjacent to Petersburg National Battlefield. The fence intruded slightly into the boundary of the park. Effective upon enactment of this bill, the Army would receive administrative jurisdiction over the 1.170 acres of park land where the perimeter fence is located and the National Park Service would receive 1.171 acres of land at Fort Lee. The Secretary of the Army is supportive of this provision. There is no cost associated with this authorization.

We recommend amending S. 718 to increase the acreage ceiling at the City Point unit from 21 acres to 25 acres. In 1978, Petersburg National Battlefield was authorized to acquire the Eppes

family property at City Point in Hopewell, provided that the amount of land acquired did not exceed 21 acres [Public Law 95-625]. The Conservation Fund owns land adjacent to the park property at the City Point unit that was purchased for the battlefield, and that land would be added to the park boundary under this bill. However, the addition of that land would exceed the 21-acre limit on land the park is authorized to acquire at City Point. Raising that limit to 25 acres would ensure that there is no conflict between the 1978 authority and this bill. In addition, ensuring clear legal authority for the park's acquisition of the Conservation Fund land would facilitate a potential land exchange that would enable the NPS to dispose of a portion of the park's property at City Point that has no relevance to the park's mission or interpretive themes.

In addition, due to the need for technical corrections in both of the maps that are referenced in the bill, we recommend amending both of the map references to reflect the updated maps. We also recommend language that specifies that the land transferred to the Army be excluded from the park boundary. We will provide the committee with the revised maps and suggested amendments.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I would be happy to answer any questions that you or other members of the subcommittee may have regarding this bill.

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS,  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE  
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 770, TO AUTHORIZE  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO CONVEY CERTAIN PROPERTY THAT WAS  
FORMERLY PART OF SANTA ROSA ISLAND NATIONAL MONUMENT AND THAT  
WAS CONVEYED TO ESCAMBIA COUNTY SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS ON USE  
AND RECONVEYANCE.**

**March 17, 2016**

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Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 770, a bill to authorize Escambia County, Florida, to convey certain property that was formerly part of Santa Rosa Island National Monument and that was conveyed to Escambia County subject to restrictions on use and reconveyance.

The Department could only support S. 770 if amended in accordance with this testimony.

S. 770 would provide authority to Escambia County to convey property, subject to certain conditions, that it received from the Federal government in 1947. The bill is intended to resolve a longstanding land use issue for the county. However, the Department would like to ensure that this bill does not result in the removal of protection for the undeveloped lands that remain from the 1947 conveyance.

S. 770 would supersede the Act of July 30, 1946, which deauthorized the Santa Rosa Island National Monument in the State of Florida and authorized the transfer of the Federal lands administered by the Department of the Interior to Escambia County. The Act of 1946 placed restrictions on the use of the lands, specifying that they must be used for purposes deemed in the public interest, and that they may not be conveyed by Escambia County except to the Federal government or the State of Florida. Pursuant to the 1946 Act, on January 15, 1947, the lands on Santa Rosa Island were transferred to Escambia County. In 1971, the Gulf Islands National Seashore was established which includes much of Santa Rosa Island. Many significant natural and cultural resources exist on the island, including Fort Pickens, several rare and endangered species, and many miles of beach. This park has also proven to be an important recreation resource, with more than five million visitors annually coming to the seashore.

S. 770 pertains to those portions of Santa Rosa Island excluded from the boundary of Gulf Islands National Seashore: a nine-mile segment in Escambia County known as Pensacola Beach and a four-mile segment in Santa Rosa County known as Navarre Beach. In 1956, Escambia County leased Navarre Beach to Santa Rosa County. The State of Florida modified the county boundaries in 1991, placing Navarre Beach within the jurisdiction of Santa Rosa County. However, the Navarre Beach lands remained in Escambia County ownership due to the restrictions on reconveyance contained in the 1946 Act. Communities have been developed at Pensacola Beach and Navarre Beach under leases granted by the counties. These are mostly privately owned residential structures.

Our primary concerns lie with the lands within Navarre Beach and Pensacola Beach that remain natural, in a pristine condition, and that provide vital wildlife habitat and have outstanding opportunities for public recreation. As written, S. 770 does not adequately define those areas to ensure they remain in public ownership, protected from development, and available for public use and enjoyment, as intended by the Act of July 30, 1946. Specifically, the county resolutions referenced by the bill do not identify current planning documents by date for both counties, leaving land use zones subject to change, rezoning, and redefinition of management prescriptions and permitted uses. Further, if rezoned, nothing in this bill would prevent the sale of these lands for private ownership and development.

Over the years, there have been various proposals to dredge a channel through Santa Rosa Island at Navarre Beach to promote further development. Any dredge and fill activities to open a channel through the island, and the construction of associated bulkheads, groins, revetments, and jetties to sustain this feature, would likely have significant adverse impacts upon Gulf Islands National Seashore. Existing estuaries, wetlands, water quality and quantity, wildlife habitat and natural communities, and endangered species would likely be substantially degraded or destroyed. Interference with the natural lateral transport of sand along the barrier island beaches would not only have significant effects upon park resources, but would also contribute to substantial erosion of public beaches leading to costly proposals to stabilize and restore the beaches. Furthermore, we are concerned that construction of this proposed channel would restrict public access to adjacent portions of Santa Rosa Island currently within Eglin Air Force Base (AFB). Management of the Eglin AFB lands on Santa Rosa Island will eventually revert to Gulf Islands National Seashore in accordance with P.L. 91-660 and section 2872 of P.L. 109-163. Unless specifically prohibited, this bill could potentially permit this channel with its substantial alteration and impairment of the island resources and restriction of public access.

Approximately 140 acres in Navarre Beach between the Navarre Bridge and Eglin AFB contain a 99-year leased parcel that is zoned for commercial development and would allow for virtually any type of commercial development including a high rise resort, shopping complex, or commercial marina. These leased lands are currently pristine and surrounded by other lands managed as a county park providing for beach access, use and enjoyment. We are concerned that the changes in land use restrictions proposed in this bill could potentially lead to inappropriate development of this important property. The leaseholder has inquired about exchanging this leased property for comparable leasable property within the developed zone of Navarre Beach. The NPS wholly supports this proposal and encourages Santa Rosa County to pursue this and to rezone this parcel as conservation/recreation similar to the surrounding county park lands.

Santa Rosa Island has long been recognized as an important public resource. The intent of the Act of 1946 was to prevent inappropriate development and to ensure the availability of these pristine beaches for public recreation and enjoyment. When portions of Santa Rosa Island were originally conveyed by the United States to Escambia County, it was on the condition that the property be used in perpetuity in the public interest. We do not object to certain developed lands being conveyed into private ownership, thus allowing the counties the benefit of having the lands on the tax rolls and allowing the federal government the benefit of any profits from the conveyances. However, we believe that the undeveloped portions of Pensacola Beach and

Navarre Beach should be excluded from commercial or residential development, retained in public ownership, and managed in their natural condition for wildlife habitat and guaranteed public access and use.

To ensure protection of the undeveloped portions of Pensacola Beach and Navarre Beach, we recommend amending the bill to accomplish the following:

1. To assure public beach access in perpetuity, public parking and beach access corridors identified within the Escambia County and Santa Rosa County planning and land use documents as of August 1, 2013 (other than parking and beach facilities), should remain publicly owned and undeveloped. This could be accomplished by retaining the applicability of the reversionary clause from the Act of July 30, 1946, for those lands, and by specifically referencing in the bill the county planning and land use documents as they existed on August 1, 2013.
2. Lands zoned "preservation" or "conservation/recreation" within the Escambia County and Santa Rosa County planning and land use documents as of August 1, 2013, should remain in public ownership and in preservation or conservation/recreation status in perpetuity. This, too, could be accomplished by retaining the applicability of the reversionary clause from the Act of July 30, 1946, for those lands, and by specifically referencing in the bill the county planning and land use documents as they existed on August 1, 2013. The language should include the definitions, management prescriptions and permitted activities for "preservation" and "conservation/recreation" zones in the county planning and land use documents as they existed on August 1, 2013, so that the terms cannot be redefined or reinterpreted at a later date. Further, the term "recreation" should be clarified to refer to passive recreation only for these lands.
3. Authority should be provided for Gulf Island National Seashore to accept by donation conservation easements for the lands zoned preservation or conservation/recreation within Navarre Beach and Pensacola Beach on Santa Rosa Island.
4. There should be a prohibition on any dredge and fill permits that would allow for the construction of a channel through Santa Rosa Island, and the construction of associated jetties, groins, bulkheads or revetments, and the dredging or filling of any wetlands, estuaries, or embayments.

We would be happy to provide the committee with recommended language for these amendments.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my statement. I would be happy to answer any questions you or the other members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE  
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 1329 AND H.R. 2288,  
BILLS TO REMOVE THE USE RESTRICTIONS ON CERTAIN LAND  
TRANSFERRED TO ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES.**

**March 17, 2016**

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Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on S. 1329 and H.R. 2288, bills to remove the use restrictions on certain land transferred to Rockingham County, Virginia, and for other purposes.

The Department supports H.R. 2288 and would support S. 1329 if amended to conform to H.R. 2288. H.R. 2288 as passed by the House addresses the concerns the Department had with the bills as introduced about the potential loss of public park and recreation land in Rockingham County. The Department appreciates the work of Senator Kaine and Representative Goodlatte in making the changes in the legislation that are reflected in the House-passed bill.

S. 1329 and H.R. 2288 as introduced would require the removal of all deed restrictions imposed by the transfer of the surplus federal property formerly known as the Broadway Work Center A-VA-681 in Rockingham County, Virginia, under the terms of the National Park Service's Federal Lands to Parks (FLP) Program. In 1989, the National Park Service conveyed this 3.03-acre property at no cost to Rockingham County under the authority of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 550(b) and (e)) on the condition that it be used in perpetuity for public park and recreation purposes.

The purpose of the FLP program is to help communities increase opportunities for public recreation by increasing park and recreation areas. By conveying this land at no cost, the federal government provided a public benefit to the citizens of Rockingham County by increasing the quantity of the county's public park land.

Public Law 101-479, enacted in 1990, allowed a specified portion of 3.03 acres of the transferred land to be used for a child care center. However, it left in place the use restriction (enforced by a reverter clause) that was part of the deed. As introduced, H.R. 2288 and S. 1329 would release the entire property from the use restriction in the deed in an effort to enhance the child care center operator's ability to finance repairs even though, consistent with the terms of Public Law 101-479, only about 1 acre of the 3-acre site is used for the facility. As passed by the House, H.R. 2288 would limit the deed release to the 1-acre portion of the property already authorized by law to be used for a child care facility. The other 2 acres would continue to be subject to the existing deed's use restriction and reverter clause.

By limiting the deed release to the portion of the property already determined by Congress to be appropriate for a child care facility, the amended legislation would accomplish its intent while

also ensuring that a community that received Federal land at no cost for the purpose of public recreation would continue to benefit from having the land dedicated to that purpose. This solution helps protect the integrity of the FLP program and avoids setting a precedent for other communities that may want a legislated release from obligations for use of federally conveyed land.

H.R. 2288 as passed by the House also eliminates the requirement in section 2(d) of Public Law 101-479 for Rockingham County to report biennially to the Secretary of the Interior about the use of the property for a child care center, as well as other language in that section that is inconsistent with releasing the center from the deed restriction.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I would be happy to answer any questions you or any members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE  
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 1930 AND H.R. 3371, TO  
AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO ADJUST THE BOUNDARY  
OF THE KENNESAW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES.**

**March 17, 2016**

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Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 1930 and H.R. 3371, bills to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to adjust the boundary of the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park in the State of Georgia to include the Wallis House and Harriston Hill, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 1930 and would support H.R. 3371 if amended in accordance with this statement. This legislation would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire by donation or exchange approximately 8 acres of land or interests in land known as the Wallis House property and Harriston Hill in Cobb County, Georgia.

The Wallis house is one of the few original structures remaining from the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain. The house is in its original location, ½ mile west of the park on Burnt Hickory Road. The Wallis house was built by Josiah Wallis in 1853 and occupied by his family until the Civil War, when it was used first as a Confederate hospital and then as the headquarters for Union General O.O. Howard during the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain. General William T. Sherman was stationed at the Wallis house during the Battle of Kolb's Farm that took place at the south end of the park and immediately preceded the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain. Adjacent to the Wallis house is Harriston Hill, which offers a sweeping vista of the valley leading to the Confederate line atop Kennesaw Mountain. From this position it is clear why General Howard picked this site for his headquarters and signaling position. The majority of the park's auto tour and trails interpret Confederate positions. The acquisition of this site would enhance visitor understanding of the Union strategy during the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain. This addition would enable the park to interpret a key Union position in the last major battle leading to the fall of Atlanta during the Civil War.

The Wallis house was in imminent danger of being demolished by a developer in 2002. The developer had purchased 26.66 acres including the Wallis house and adjoining Harriston Hill with plans to construct 43 homes on the property. In cooperation with the National Park Service, the Cobb Land Trust, and the Georgia Civil War Commission, Cobb County agreed to purchase the Wallis house property and the 5.5 acres encompassing Harriston Hill with the intent of donating the properties to Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park. The Cobb Land Trust agreed to purchase 1.13 acres at the foot of Harriston Hill that are essential for providing visitor access to all properties and to donate this property to the NPS. Neither the county nor the Cobb Land Trust has the funds to restore, maintain or manage the site, and no other entity has indicated the interest or ability to do so.

The NPS estimates that the site would require an immediate one-time cost of \$1 million for repair and safety improvements, and an annual operational cost of \$204,000 for salaries, supplies, and maintenance. All funds would be subject to NPS priorities and the availability of appropriations.

The Department supports S. 1930 as introduced and would support H.R. 3371 as passed by the House if amended to conform to the language in S. 1930. As passed by the House, H.R. 3371 makes the establishment of the expanded boundary subject to the written consent of the owners of properties that would be included within the new boundary. This places landowners, rather than Congress or the Administration, in the position of determining the boundary of a federal park, which we believe is inappropriate. This provision has the potential to create legal and practical confusion over the boundary since it is possible that a landowner could give consent, then change his or her mind and withdraw consent or convey the property to another owner who withdraws consent. If the intent of this language is to ensure that no land is included within the park boundary without the consent of the landowner, we recommend amending the bill to provide that the park boundary shall not be adjusted unless and until a specified property is acquired for the park. By waiting to include land in the boundary until it is acquired by the federal government, this approach avoids entirely the potential problems we see with the approach used in the House bill. Our recommended approach has precedent in other park laws.

H.R. 3371 prohibits acquisition by condemnation of any land or interests in land within the boundaries of the park. However, the bill already limits acquisition to donation or exchange. If the intent of this provision is to prohibit condemnation of the approximately 8 acres that would be included in the park boundary, we believe limiting acquisition to donation or exchange achieves the same goal.

H.R. 3371 also includes language that says that an activity outside the boundary shall not be precluded because it can be heard or seen inside the park boundary. The Department has concerns about this language. It is misleading, as it suggests that the NPS may have authority to preclude activities outside the boundaries, which it does not. Of even greater concern, however, is that the language could discourage park managers from addressing threats to park resources from external sources. Even though the NPS does not control what happens outside of its boundaries, park managers have a responsibility under the NPS Organic Act and other laws to work with owners of properties outside of park boundaries to resolve problems that could negatively impact the resources the NPS is responsible for protecting.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I would be happy to answer any questions you or any members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE  
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 1943, TO MODIFY THE  
BOUNDARY OF SHILOH NATIONAL MILITARY PARK LOCATED IN THE STATES  
OF TENNESSEE AND MISSISSIPPI, TO ESTABLISH PARKER'S CROSSROADS  
BATTLEFIELD AS AN AFFILIATED AREA OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM,  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**MARCH 17, 2016**

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Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 1943, a bill to modify the boundary of Shiloh National Military Park in the States of Tennessee and Mississippi, to establish Parker's Crossroads Battlefield in the state of Tennessee as an affiliated area of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 1943 with technical amendments.

S. 1943 would add three sites related to the Siege and Battle of Corinth to the boundary of Shiloh National Military Park. In 1991, the "Siege and Battle of Corinth Sites" was designated a National Historic Landmark. The Corinth Battlefield Protection Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-271) authorized the creation of the Corinth Unit, as part of Shiloh National Military Park, to "interpret the Siege and Battle of Corinth and other Civil War actions in the area in and around the city of Corinth, Mississippi." The legislation defined a large partnership role with state, local, and private park partners in the planning, development and interpretation of the unit. The law also authorized a special resource study to identify and determine any other areas that would be appropriate for inclusion in the unit.

The "Corinth Special Resource Study and Boundary Adjustment Environmental Assessment," completed in 2004, identified 18 sites that have a high degree of integrity and significant resources that would provide opportunities for public enjoyment, and recommended that these be included in the boundary of the Corinth Unit of Shiloh National Military Park. In 2007, Congress amended the Corinth Battlefield Protection Act of 2000 (Public Law 110-161, Section 127) to expand the boundary of the Corinth Unit of Shiloh National Military Park to include 12 of those sites.

S. 1943 would modify the boundary of Shiloh National Military Park to include three of the six remaining sites identified in the 2004 special resource study. These three sites – the battlefields of Fallen Timbers, Russell House, and Davis Bridge – would contribute significantly to telling the remarkable story of the United States Army's Mississippi Valley Campaign during the Civil War, especially the Battle of Shiloh, Tennessee, and the Siege of Corinth, Mississippi. The Mississippi Valley Campaign was a major milestone on the road that led to the final success of the Union Army in the war and the ultimate reunification of the nation.

The first battlefield that S. 1943 would include in Shiloh's authorized boundary is Fallen Timbers. On April 8, 1862, after two days of fierce fighting at Shiloh, Major General Ulysses S. Grant dispatched Brigadier General William T. Sherman on a reconnaissance to investigate Confederate intentions. Sherman encountered a large Confederate field hospital protected by a force of Southern cavalry under Lieutenant Colonel Nathan Bedford Forrest in an area called Fallen Timbers. Sherman advanced against the Confederate force and captured the field hospital with its surgeons and about 250 wounded Southern soldiers and about 50 wounded U.S. soldiers that had been previously captured by the Confederates. After this engagement, the Confederates retreated to Corinth and Sherman returned to Shiloh Church. Thus, the final shots of the Battle of Shiloh were fired at Fallen Timbers. A cautious and methodical U.S. Army advance would mark the beginning of the advance upon, and siege of Corinth.

The Fallen Timbers Battlefield site consists of 468 acres of agricultural and forested land, a small portion of which is developed. The Civil War Trust has acquired approximately 270 acres of this land with the intention of donating it to the federal government. The remaining 198 acres that would be included in the boundary are in private ownership.

The second battlefield that S. 1943 would include in Shiloh's authorized boundary is the Russell House. On May 17, 1862, during the advance upon Corinth, U.S. forces, led by Major General Sherman, fought a Confederate brigade and compelled the southern force to abandon its strong outpost at the Russell House situated on the Tennessee-Mississippi state line. Because the position possessed a great natural strength, Sherman's men lost no time fortifying it and driving the enemy further south toward Corinth.

The pastoral setting of the Russell House Battlefield retains a high degree of integrity, contains the extant remains of field fortifications, and has high potential for archeological survey and research. The approximately 666-acre tract that would be included in the boundary is in private ownership.

The third battlefield that S. 1943 would include in Shiloh's authorized boundary is Davis Bridge. On October 5, 1862, U.S. troops attacked a retreating Confederate force at Davis Bridge on the Hatchie River. The Federals drove the Confederates back across the river, seized the bridge, and charged into a thicket east of the river. Confederates defending the heights overlooking the crossing to the east inflicted heavy casualties on the Federals and checked their further advance, thereby permitting the defeated Confederate force to retreat south into Mississippi. The engagement at Davis Bridge was the last Confederate offensive in Mississippi.

In 1998, a 598-acre portion of the Davis Bridge Battlefield was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The bridge across the Hatchie River has long since washed away and the banks of the river have undergone erosion, but the 1,090 acres proposed to be included in the park boundary retain a high degree of integrity with much of the acreage remaining in agricultural cultivation or woodlands. The State of Tennessee owns approximately 845 of these acres. An approximately five-acre plot, which is a contributing property to the Siege and Battle of Corinth National Historic Landmark, has been donated to the National Park Service by the Davis Bridge Memorial Foundation.

If this legislation is enacted, we anticipate that we would acquire the majority of land by donation and that we would not develop visitor services or facilities at the three sites for the foreseeable future. Therefore, land acquisition and development costs would be minimal. Our current estimate for administrative costs associated with land donation at the three sites is \$60,000 to cover title searches, environmental site assessments, and closing actions, subject to the availability of appropriations.

S. 1943 would also establish Parker's Crossroads Battlefield in the State of Tennessee as an affiliated area of the National Park System. The bill designates the city of Parkers Crossroads and the Tennessee Historical Commission as the management entity for the affiliated area and authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide technical assistance and enter into cooperative agreements with the management entity for the purpose of providing financial assistance for the marketing, marking, interpretation, and preservation of the affiliated area. As an affiliated area, Parker's Crossroads Battlefield would continue under non-federal ownership and management, but the owner would be required to administer the site consistent with laws applicable to units of the National Park System.

Affiliated areas comprise a variety of locations in the United States that preserve significant properties outside of the National Park System. Some of these have been designated by Acts of Congress and others have been designated administratively. All draw on technical assistance or financial aid from the National Park Service.

The Parker's Crossroads Battlefield is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is significant for its role in the military history of the Civil War and its archeological potential to yield information concerning the battle. The Parker's Crossroads Battlefield was the final engagement of Confederate now-Brigadier General Nathan Bedford Forrest's West Tennessee raid of December, 1862, which resulted in the disruption of Major General Ulysses S. Grant's supply lines as his army advanced towards Vicksburg. Forrest's raid and the simultaneous destruction of Grant's supply depot at Holly Spring, Mississippi, caused Grant to end his overland campaign against Vicksburg.

Since the battle, the area has remained largely in agricultural fields and forests consistent with its appearance in 1862, and the site retains a high degree of integrity. It is likely that the site contains physical remnants of the battle that can provide information concerning troop movements and areas where primary fighting occurred. The site is known to contain the remains of soldiers who were killed during the fighting and other burials may have also occurred there.

We recommend amending both of the dates of the map referenced in S. 1943 to allow for more current maps to be substituted. Those amendments are attached.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I would be happy to answer any questions you or any members of the subcommittee may have.

**Proposed Amendments to S. 1943, Shiloh National Military Park Boundary Adjustment and Parker's Crossroads Battlefield Designation Act**

On page 2, line 18, strike "April 2012" and insert "July 2014".

On page 3, line 11, strike "April 2012" and insert "July 2014".

Explanation:

The above amendments would update the map references to more current maps.

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE  
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 1975, A BILL TO  
ESTABLISH THE SEWALL-BELMONT HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE AS A  
UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**March 17, 2016**

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Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 1975, a bill to establish the Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 1975.

S. 1975 would establish the Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site as a new unit of the National Park System to preserve and protect the site and to interpret the nationally significant resources related to the women's rights movement.

The bill establishes the boundaries of the historic site within the parcel located at 144 Constitution Avenue, Northeast, in Washington, D.C. The bill allows the Secretary to establish the Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site as a unit once the Secretary determines that the National Woman's Party (NWP) has transferred the land and any improvements to the land within the boundary to the Secretary, and when the Secretary and the NWP have entered into a management agreement. The bill requires that the management agreement provide for the National Park Service (NPS) operation and management of the national historic site while the NWP retains ownership and management of the NWP collection, which includes extensive library, archival, and museum holdings relating to the woman's suffrage movement. The management agreement shall also provide for collaboration and cooperation by the NPS and the NWP on management and interpretation of the Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site.

The Sewall-Belmont House was constructed on Capitol Hill around 1800 by Robert Sewall and has been home to the NWP since 1929. From here, Alice Paul, longtime leader of the NWP, wrote new language in 1943 for the Equal Rights Amendment, which became known as the "Alice Paul Amendment," and led the fight for its passage in Congress. Throughout the 20th century, the NWP was a leading advocate of women's political, social, and economic equality.

During the 1920s and 1930s, the NWP drafted more than 600 pieces of legislation in support of equal rights for women on the state and local levels, including bills covering divorce and custody rights, jury service, property rights, ability to enter into contracts, and the reinstatement of one's maiden name after marriage. It launched two major "Women For Congress" campaigns in 1924 and 1926 and lobbied for the appointment of women to high federal positions. The party also worked for federal and state "blanket bills" to ensure women equal rights and was instrumental in changing federal legislation to provide equal nationality and citizenship laws for women. NWP lobbying helped to eliminate many of the sex discrimination clauses in the National

Recovery Administration's codes and assisted in the adoption of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. The NWP successfully campaigned for the inclusion of Title VII in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and remained a political action committee until 1997.

Alice Paul continued to work actively out of the Sewall-Belmont House until failing health forced her to relocate to Connecticut in 1972. As the only extant structure associated with the NWP, the Sewall-Belmont House continues to serve as NWP headquarters as well as a museum and research library.

The political strategies and tactics of Alice Paul and the NWP became a blueprint for civil-rights organizations and activities throughout the twentieth century. The Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site is an appropriate place in which to interpret the women's rights movement and tell the stories of women's suffrage and the ongoing fight for the Equal Rights Amendment. The site would tell the story of a determined band of women who put their lives on the line to get the vote for half the nation's population.

On May 30, 1974, the Secretary of the Interior designated the site a National Historic Landmark based on its role as the headquarters of the National Woman's Party and its association with Alice Paul. At the time, it was the only site in the United States dedicated to the contemporary women's movement. Later in 1974, Congress established the Sewall-Belmont House as a National Historic Site and authorized a cooperative agreement between the NWP and the Secretary of the Interior for the preservation and interpretation of the house. The site is currently an affiliated area of the National Park System with the NPS providing financial and technical assistance for preservation and interpretation through a series of cooperative agreements.

S. 1975 reflects the recommendations of the November 2014 *Sewall-Belmont House: Feasibility Study of Potential Operating Models under NPS Stewardship* (NPS feasibility study) which evaluated criteria of feasibility and a need for NPS management. National significance and suitability criteria were satisfied by the site's National Historic Landmark designation and affiliated area status. The NPS feasibility study recommended a model that would transfer ownership of the house and associated property to the United States with day-to-day operational responsibilities and visitor services to the NPS, while allowing NWP to retain ownership and management of the museum's collection and to lead educational programs and outreach efforts.

If established based upon the management model recommended in the study, the NPS estimates that the site would require an immediate one-time cost of \$1.2 million for repair and replacement of equipment that is in danger of failure, and an annual operational cost of \$693,000 for salaries, supplies, operations and management. All funds would be subject to NPS priorities and the availability of appropriations.

The inclusion of the Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site in the National Park System would assure the preservation and interpretation of the nationally significant story of women's suffrage and women's rights in the United States -- a critical part of our Nation's history and culture.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I would be happy to answer any questions that you or other members of the subcommittee may have regarding this bill.

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE  
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 1982, TO AUTHORIZE A  
WALL OF REMEMBRANCE AS PART OF THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS  
MEMORIAL AND TO ALLOW CERTAIN PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUND  
THAT WALL OF REMEMBRANCE.**

**March 17, 2016**

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Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 1982, a bill to authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund that Wall of Remembrance.

The Department appreciates the effort to recognize the service men and women who gave their lives during the Korean War, but we oppose S. 1982 because it would significantly alter the character of the existing Korean War Veterans Memorial, and it is inconsistent with the Commemorative Works Act.

S. 1982 would amend Public Law 99-572 to expand upon the original purpose and design of the Korean War Veterans Memorial. The bill adds new subjects for commemoration and would require the display of certain information at the memorial about members of the United States Armed Forces who served in the Korean Conflict. Also, the bill would require the display of information at the memorial about members of the Korean armed forces and other Korean military personnel as well as the 20 other non-U.S. forces that were part of the United Nations Command who served in the Korean Conflict.

The Korean War Veterans Memorial commemorates the sacrifices of over 5.7 million Americans who served in the U.S. armed services during the three-year period of the Korean War. The Memorial also recognizes the participation of the 22 nations who served as United Nations contributors. During the Korean War's relatively short duration from June 25, 1950, to July 27, 1953, 54,246 Americans died. Of these, 8,200 are listed as missing in action, lost, or buried at sea. In addition, 103,284 were wounded during the conflict.

The Memorial was designed, constructed and completed by its legislatively designated sponsor, the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) and the Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory Board, with public involvement throughout. It was dedicated on July 27, 1995.

The Memorial's design, and each of its features down to its plantings, is symbolic. The Memorial is the culmination of years of work by the ABMC, and careful reviews, followed by revisions, and ultimately approvals reached by the National Park Service and other federal entities including the National Capital Planning Commission and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts. This painstaking and public process began with the competition design, and resulted in the completed Memorial we know today. The Memorial should not now be changed to include the

engraving of names of Americans who died in that conflict. The opportunity to mimic the design characteristics present at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was purposefully avoided when the design was requested during an open, international design competition.

The concept of engraving names at this Memorial was considered extensively when the Memorial was being designed. The ABMC and the Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory Board with the Department's concurrence, advised against the incorporation of engraved names at the Memorial. Both agencies arrived at this decision upon reflection of years of experience with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Inscribing names is a lengthy and painstaking process even when it goes smoothly. But more important, as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial experience showed, there is not always agreement on those names to be included and those names that are not, and this has led to public contention and controversy. Choosing some names and omitting others causes a place of solace to become a source of hurt. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial honors all who served in that conflict, but only the names of those killed within the combat zone, and confirmed by the Department of Defense, meet the criteria to be engraved on the Wall. This means that those killed by a fire on a Navy ship just outside the zone are not eligible to have their names engraved on the wall - a difficult message for their survivors to accept.

The ABMC and the Department felt the lessons learned at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial must not be ignored, that a different type of commemoration must occur at the Korean War Veterans Memorial, and that the Memorial should be representative in design and not include individual names. As a compromise to the Korean War veterans who wanted the names engraved, ABMC created the Korean War Honor Roll, which is an electronic registry of names. Visitors have access to this registry from the Internet or at the kiosks at the Memorial. A kiosk containing the Korean War Honor Roll stands at the west entrance of the Memorial. It is serviced by a National Park Service ranger, who provides assistance to visitors. The Honor Roll computer contains the names of all military personnel who lost their lives during the Korean War, including the individual's name, service, rank, service number, date of birth, hometown or county of entry into the service, cause of death, and date of death. If the information is furnished to ABMC, the Honor Roll includes the serviceman's unit, his awards, the circumstances surrounding his death or his going missing in action and a photograph. The ABMC also has the names of those missing engraved at the Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial.

The Korean War Veterans Memorial is located near the Lincoln Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., in an area designated by Congress in the Commemorative Works Act as the Reserve – an area in which no new commemorative works shall be located. As Congress noted in the law creating the Reserve, "...the great cross-axis of the Mall in the District of Columbia...is a substantially completed work of civic art; and ...to preserve the integrity of the Mall, a reserve area should be designated...where the siting of new commemorative works is prohibited." The Korean War Veterans Memorial is a completed work of civic art in this special landscape of the Reserve. Moreover, we cannot ignore the practical effect of this legislation. Essentially, the Memorial wall would be a second Korean War Veterans Memorial, effectively thwarting the intent of the Commemorative Works Act to prohibit new memorials within the Reserve and would be an addition that would significantly alter the character of the existing Memorial. And this second memorial would have the effect of violating the Commemorative Works Act prohibition on interfering or encroaching on an existing memorial.

We feel very strongly that the Korean War Veterans Memorial, like the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, exists to recall the exemplary service and sacrifice of outstanding Americans, and this memorial has already been completed as it stands today. The Korean War Veterans Memorial is a place of honor and dignity and we should avoid any intrusions that will become a source of contention or controversy.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I would be happy to answer any questions that you or other members of the subcommittee may have regarding this bill.

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE  
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 1993, THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY  
CONSERVATION SERVICE CORPS ACT OF 2015.**

**March 17, 2016**

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Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 1993, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conservation Service Corps Act of 2015.

The Department supports enactment of S. 1993, which would codify, strengthen, and broaden the Administration's 21CSC program, helping to better fulfill the Administration's commitment to increase employment and training opportunities for our nation's young people. We would welcome the opportunity to work with the committee on amendments and clarifying language described later in this statement.

In 2010, President Obama created the America's Great Outdoors Initiative to encourage Americans, particularly young people, to enjoy our country's rivers and waterways, farms and forests, and local and national parks. As part of this initiative, the President called for the creation of the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) to establish quality jobs, career pathways and service opportunities for youth and veterans. Building on this vision, Secretary Jewell launched a youth initiative to inspire millions of young people to play, learn, serve and work outdoors.

As a part of this effort, the Department and its land management bureaus, along with the U.S. Forest Service, have established public-private partnership programs that we identify as 21CSC partnerships. The Department carries out these activities under authorities provided in the Public Lands Corps Act, which is limited to the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture.

The Administration's 21CSC builds on existing partnerships with youth conservation corps across the country, placing young people, including those from underserved communities, and veterans in the United States, in national service positions to work protecting, restoring and enhancing America's public lands, waterways and cultural heritage sites. The 21CSC also helps federal land management agencies meet their missions by leveraging existing resources to carry out cost-effective natural and cultural resource protection and conservation projects while providing valuable community service opportunities, job skill development and pathways to careers in resource stewardship.

In 2014, the Department, in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Interior bureaus including the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service and the

U.S. Geological Survey, collaborated on 51 21CSC projects that benefited youth and veterans. These 51 projects leveraged \$1,992,067 into more than \$7 million, employed approximately 700 youth and veterans, engaged more than 1,850 volunteers within the local communities, and conducted activities on over 200 miles of public lands. Activities undertaken by 21CSC participants included, among others, trail maintenance, watershed restoration, and forest regeneration, invasive species removal, and historic preservation.

A few specific examples of public-private partnerships help illustrate the success of the 21CSC.

In Oregon and California, as part of this initiative, the Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) built on a long-standing partnership with the BLM and FWS to expand its internship program and improve outreach to underserved communities, including Native American and Hispanic youth. The combination of KBO's established long-term monitoring program and an intensive bird banding training curriculum foster the integration of youth engagement and professional training. The internships have provided opportunities for training and practical experience in bird monitoring techniques; learning through a well-rounded curriculum in field biology; and attaining bird bander certification through the North American Banding Council.

In Arizona, the Conservation Legacy worked with Bureau of Indian Affairs to lead an eight-person Native American youth crew in completion of natural resource conservation projects on the Navajo Nation. The crew consisted of local area high school students and two adult crew leaders. During the four-week program the crew restored and stabilized Hubble Wash, maintained trails, and repaired and constructed wildlife fencing.

In New Mexico, the Talking Talons Youth Leadership, in partnership with the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), the Bureau of Reclamation, the New Mexico State Land Office, Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District, the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program, Amigos Bravos, Friends of the Valle de Oro, and Friends of the Sandia Mountains provided approximately 560 hours of paid employment for urban and minority youth in conservation work that benefited the public lands and mission of the Valle de Oro NWR, Reclamation, and State of New Mexico. In addition to receiving in-depth education and training in diverse aspects of environmental restoration, monitoring, and stewardship, crew members conducted surface and groundwater quality monitoring and remove invasive vegetation on 80 acres on the Refuge and adjacent federal and state lands.

And, in Maine, Friends of Acadia hired young people to work on projects with the National Park Service in Acadia National Park, including creating the "Acadia Technology Trail," working to engage the public in raptor viewing opportunities, and working on a trail crew mediating trail issues. Many of the youth work experiences occur in accessible, highly visited areas, such as Sieur de Monts Springs.

If enacted, S. 1993 would establish into law the 21CSC and increase the number of federal departments and agencies authorized to partner with 21CSC organizations and participants to support and carry out 21CSC projects. These entities would include the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Transportation, Labor, Energy, Defense, Veterans Affairs and Commerce and the Environmental Protection Agency, the Council on Environmental Quality, the

Corporation for National and Community Service, Army Corps of Engineers and any other agencies as designated by the President. The authority provided by this bill would give participating agencies flexibility to support 21CSC projects in a manner consistent with each agency's mission and resources.

The bill would require coordination among federal agencies to ensure project efficiencies and facilitate approval of corps organizations to participate in the 21CSC. Under the bill, participating agencies would be required to report to Congress to ensure 21CSC activities are carried out in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

The legislation would also allow agencies to provide non-competitive hiring status for participants for two years after completing service if certain terms are met. We believe that this is an essential expansion of the non-competitive hire period of 120 days provided under the Public Lands Corps, which provides an authority the Department uses currently to hire former conservation corps participants. We strongly support this provision which we believe will increase diversity in recruitment and note that it is consistent with Public Lands Corps Act amendments the Administration included in the National Park Service Centennial Act which has been introduced in this Congress by Senator Cantwell as S. 2257.

S. 1993 would also provide a 10 percent cost-share requirement for 21CSC organizations. Under the Public Lands Corps Act, this required cost-share is 25 percent. The Department supports this provision which would enable a greater range of organizations such as smaller, community-based organization that draw from low-income and rural populations to participate in the 21CSC.

We recommend amending the definition of "youth" in S. 1993 to expand eligibility of young people to age 35, to broaden the range of eligible participants. Under the bill as introduced, eligibility ends at age 28. We would also welcome the opportunity to work with the sponsors and the Subcommittee to clarify provisions related to service hour requirements for eligibility for noncompetitive hire status, in addition to other technical changes. Finally, we note that the Department of Labor has identified concerns with section 6(c) regarding certain labor laws. Interior is committed to working with the Department of Labor and the Subcommittee to address those concerns.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I would be happy to answer any questions you or any members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE  
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES CONCERNING S. 2039, TO DESIGNATE  
THE MOUNTAIN AT THE DEVILS TOWER NATIONAL MONUMENT,  
WYOMING, AS DEVILS TOWER.**

**March 17, 2016**

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Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 2039, a bill to designate the mountain at the Devils Tower National Monument, Wyoming, as Devils Tower.

The Department appreciates the long history and public interest of the name Devils Tower National Monument in Devils Tower, Wyoming. However, the Department is concerned about any decisions made by this legislation to maintain the existing name for the mountain, without taking into account the views of the tribes in the area.

Devils Tower National Monument is considered sacred to the Lakota and many other tribes that have a connection to the area. In March 2015, a number of the tribal leaders led an initiative to rename the monument to better represent the cultural significance of the area for the tribes. While the NPS has no authority to act on the name change request, the NPS and the Monument staff hold the wishes of the affected tribes in the highest regard.

The NPS recognizes that the name "Devils Tower" is considered offensive to some American Indian Tribes, and that the name may have been applied to the feature in the late 19th century through a misinterpretation. The names Bear Lodge, Bears Lodge, and Mato Teepee were the names assigned to the tower on most maps, with few exceptions, between 1874 and 1901. Some speculate that Bear Lodge was mistakenly interpreted as Bad God's, which later became Devils Tower. The name Devils Tower was applied to the national monument when it was established in 1906. The Tribes with close association to the monument hold it highly sacred, and find the application of the name "Devil" to be deeply offensive.

The NPS has no authority to change the names of the geologic feature, the populated place, or the national monument. The U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) has the authority to change names for a geologic feature or populated place, whereas the name of a national monument can only be changed by an act of Congress or by Presidential Proclamation.

In accordance with its statutory direction to solicit the cooperation of the Federal departments and agencies most concerned, the BGN asked the NPS for its position, if any, regarding the Tribal leaders' name change proposal. Prior to the NPS submitting a position to the BGN regarding this issue, S. 2039 was introduced. This caused the BGN to cease all consideration of the matter, pursuant to its policy that the BGN "will not render a decision on a name or its application if the matter is also being considered by the Congress of the United States."

The NPS honors and respects the views of American Indians and all visitors to national park units. The NPS has incorporated the name and has used "Bear Lodge" interchangeably with Devils Tower in elements of the 2014 Foundation Document and in the Vision Statement for the park.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I would be happy to answer any questions you or the other members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE  
ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 2061 TO DESIGNATE  
A NATIONAL MEMORIAL TO FALLEN EDUCATORS AT THE NATIONAL  
TEACHERS HALL OF FAME IN EMPORIA KANSAS.**

**March 17, 2016**

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Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear before your committee to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 2061, a bill to designate a National Memorial to Fallen Educators at the National Teachers Hall of Fame in Emporia, Kansas.

The Department of the Interior would defer to the Department of Education for a position on S. 2061 since the purpose of the legislation is to honor teachers. The memorial is located at a site that is not under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, and this bill does not provide for any management or funding by the National Park Service.

S. 2061 would designate a national memorial to fallen educators at the National Teachers Hall of Fame in Emporia, Kansas. The memorial is intended to recognize teachers who not only dedicated their lives to teaching, but were sadly taken from us while "in the line of duty." The National Teachers Hall of Fame is a non-profit organization that annually honors five school teachers who demonstrate exceptional commitment and dedication to teaching. The Hall of Fame was founded in 1989, by Emporia State University (ESU), the ESU Alumni Association, the City of Emporia, Emporia Public Schools, and the Emporia Area Chamber of Commerce. On June 13, 2013, the National Teachers Hall of Fame broke ground to build a memorial for the teachers that have fallen in the "line of duty."

This legislation explicitly states that this memorial is not a unit of the National Park System. However, the use of the title "national memorial" creates a reasonable expectation among the general public that the memorial must have an affiliation with the National Park Service, which currently administers 30 national memorials across the country. This is not the first time this issue has arisen, nor is it likely to be the last, and the Department respectfully encourages only the most thoughtful and judicious designation of any future "national" memorials or other similar sites.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I would be happy to answer any questions you or the other members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE  
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 2177 AND H.R. 959, TO  
AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO STUDY THE SUITABILITY  
AND FEASIBILITY OF DESIGNATING THE MEDGAR EVERS HOUSE IN  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, AS A UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM, AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES.**

**March 17, 2016**

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Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's testimony regarding S. 2177 and H.R. 959, bills to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Medgar Evers House in Jackson, Mississippi, as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 2177 and H.R. 959 with amendments described later in this testimony. Priority should be given, however, to the 25 previously authorized studies for potential units of the National Park System, potential new National Heritage Areas, and potential additions to the National Trails System and National Wild and Scenic River System that have not yet been transmitted to Congress.

S. 2177 and H.R. 959 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Medgar Evers House in Jackson, Mississippi, for potential inclusion in the National Park System. We estimate that this study will cost approximately \$200,000 to \$300,000. Funding for this proposed study would need to be allocated from the set amount of funding that Congress appropriates for all special resource studies.

Medgar Evers was born in 1925 in Decatur, Mississippi. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1943, fought in both France and Germany during World War II, and received an honorable discharge in 1946. He met his future wife, Myrlie Beasley, while a student at Alcorn College in Lorman, Mississippi. Eventually, they had three children: Darrell, Reena, and James.

Mr. Evers' first job following graduation was as an insurance salesman in 1952. He gradually became involved in civil rights causes and action through the Regional Council of Negro Leadership, a society in Mississippi founded in 1951 to promote a program of civil rights, self-help, and business ownership. He later worked on behalf of the NAACP by organizing local affiliates.

In 1954 Medgar Evers applied for admission to the University of Mississippi Law School but was rejected. He filed a discrimination lawsuit against the university with the aid of his attorney, Thurgood Marshall, who later became the first African-American justice on the United States Supreme Court. Even though the lawsuit failed to gain Mr. Evers admittance to the law school, he gained national attention and in the same year became state field secretary for the NAACP.

His activities included recruiting new members, organizing voter-registration drives, and leading economic boycotts of companies that practiced discrimination.

Ultimately, these activities attracted the attention of those who opposed racial equality and desegregation, including those willing to resort to violence to maintain the status quo. These opponents of equal rights began to subject Medgar Evers and his family to threats, intimidation, and other forms of violence. His house was firebombed in May 1963 and he was assassinated by a gunshot in the back in his driveway on June 12, 1963. Subsequently, he was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

Mrs. Evers and her children lived in the house for a year following the murder of her husband, but she decided that she could not remain there and moved her family to California. Subsequently, she donated the house to Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, Mississippi. The house had deteriorated over the years so the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and Tougaloo College decided to restore it as a museum commemorating the life and tragic death of one of the icons of the Civil Rights movement in America. Guided tours of the house are available to the public by appointment.

S. 2177 and H.R. 959 include certain requirements for the study which we recommend deleting. Specifically, we urge deleting section 2(b)(5) of both bills, which would require an analysis of the effect of designation as a unit of the National Park System on existing commercial and recreational activities, and on the authority of state and local governments to manage those activities. We also urge deleting section 2(b)(6) of both bills, which would require an identification of any authorities that would compel or permit the Secretary of the Interior to influence or participate in local land use decisions or place restrictions on non-federal lands. H.R. 959, as introduced in the House, did not include these requirements.

The purpose of conducting a special resource study is to determine whether a resource meets the criteria for inclusion in the National Park System and, if it does not, to provide information on alternative means to protect the resource. We believe that the special resource study requirements under existing law result in a sufficient amount of information and analysis of the effects of including a resource in the National Park System. These additional requirements could potentially increase the cost of the study and the time required to complete it.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer questions that you or other members of the subcommittee might have.

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE  
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 2309, A BILL TO AMEND  
TITLE 54 UNITED STATES CODE, TO ESTABLISH WITHIN THE NATIONAL PARK  
SERVICE THE U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS NETWORK AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**MARCH 17, 2016**

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Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 2309, a bill to establish within the National Park Service, the U.S. Civil Rights Network.

The Department strongly supports S. 2309, with amendments.

The NPS would be proud to be part of this program to commemorate, preserve, and interpret this important and inspiring era in American history. Well over a decade ago, the National Park Service and the Organization of American Historians conducted a theme study that helped to identify and interpret sites associated with the modern Civil Rights movement. From this effort, NPS found that a number of sites related to the African American role in the Civil Rights movement had not been recognized, with many in immediate danger of being lost or destroyed. If enacted, S. 2309 would provide a structure to identify and commemorate the activities and sites of African Americans involved in the Civil Rights movement and create a framework that could promote public education regarding this crucial chapter of the American story. This bill would allow NPS to build critical partnerships with other public and private entities, to raise public awareness, and help preserve the remaining sites and stories of the Civil Rights movement.

The modern Civil Rights movement arose in the face of systematic oppression, discrimination, and violence. The figures of this movement fought against these forces and many deservedly have become national heroes. But this movement was also powered forward on the backs of ordinary men and women and their efforts and stories are equally important to preserve and share. These stories and sites can be found in almost every community in this nation, some of which are deeply interwoven into the narrative of the units of the National Park System. But most of these resources are cared for outside of the National Park System and often need further documentation, interpretation, identification, and protection.

No single site reflects the full story of the role of African Americans in the Civil Rights narrative, and a network would to help recognize and preserve these places. With the creation of the U.S. Civil Rights Network, the NPS will be directed to produce and share educational materials, become part of cooperative agreements to provide much-needed technical assistance, and create an official symbol to help with the identification of these sites and stories. This network will be made up of existing units and programs of the NPS; Federal, State, local and privately owned property, and other governmental and nongovernmental facilities that are directly related to the African American role in the Civil Rights movement.

The fundamental purpose of the U.S. Civil Rights Network Act is to honor the courage and sacrifice of those African American champions for justice; those who fought against discrimination and segregation to bring forth the vision laid out in the very foundations of our national doctrine that all men and women are created equal. We must honor their legacy and continue to carry forward their work of national reconciliation and social justice.

To that end, we recommend changing the title of the network to the African American Civil Rights Network to avoid any confusion as to the bill's purpose or the potential sites that would be eligible to participate. We would be pleased to work with the committee on the amendments need to implement this change.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my statement. I would be happy to answer any questions you or the other members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE  
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 2608, A BILL TO  
AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR AND THE SECRETARY OF  
AGRICULTURE TO PLACE SIGNAGE ON FEDERAL LAND ALONG THE TRAIL  
KNOWN AS THE "AMERICAN DISCOVERY TRAIL", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**March 17, 2016**

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Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 2608, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to place signage on Federal land along the trail known as the "American Discovery Trail", and for other purposes.

The Department would not oppose S. 2608, if amended to make the authority to place signage discretionary rather than mandatory, as explained later in this testimony.

S. 2608 would direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to place signage denoting the American Discovery Trail, which is not part of the National Trail System, on Federal land at points along the trail, as soon as practicable after signage acceptable to the respective Secretary is donated. The bill also prohibits the use of Federal funds for the acquisition of this signage.

The American Discovery Trail (ADT) was proposed in 1990 as a continuous mid-continent, coast-to-coast trail to link metropolitan areas to the nation's major long-distance trails, as well as to shorter local and regional trails. In October 1992, through P.L. 102-461, Congress directed the Secretary of the Interior to study the feasibility and desirability of adding the ADT to the National Trails System. This study was completed in December of 1995, and submitted to Congress in 1998. The over 6,000-mile route of the ADT, as described in this legislation and mapped in the feasibility study, extends from Cape Henlopen State Park in Delaware to Point Reyes National Seashore in California.

The study found that the ADT could be appropriate for designation as a new class of national trails – National Discovery Trails – separate from National Scenic Trails or National Historic Trails. One of the primary reasons for proposing the establishment of National Discovery Trails would be to address a potential conflict with National Scenic Trails following roads. When the ADT was initially proposed, a guiding principle in identifying the trail's route was that it be located on public lands and rights-of-way to avoid the acquisition of private land. This meant that the proposed trail often was routed along roads. The National Trails System Act specifically prohibits the use of motorized vehicles along National Scenic Trails. This new class of trails could be located along roadways, if necessary, to make the trails continuous.

Congress has not taken action to authorize a new category of national trails within the national trails system or to designate the American Discovery Trail as part of that national system as the first National Discovery Trail.

In addition, the Department is concerned that the requirement in S. 2608 to place signage denoting the American Discovery Trail on Federal land at points along the trail could compromise Federal land managers' ability to exercise their discretion with regard to the location of signage and the protection of sensitive resources.

Individual Federal land managers may allow the signage of non-Federal trails upon Federal lands, where appropriate, and in accordance with existing Federal laws, regulations, and policies. However, Federal land managers also may decline a request to allow signage of a non-Federal trail in instances where they believe the signage may have a detrimental impact upon visitor safety or resource protection.

Furthermore, significant portions of the American Discovery Trail are located along roadways. While existing Federal laws and regulations related to the signage of hiking trails along roadways could potentially preclude some conflicts, there are other instances in which the signage of a hiking trail is not specifically prohibited in law, but the Federal land manager may determine that the siting of signage in a particular location is inappropriate.

The Department believes that Federal land managers should retain the ability that they have under current law to determine the appropriateness of signage on Federal lands. For that reason, the Department would not oppose the legislation if it is amended to allow individual Federal land managers the discretion to make the final determination regarding the location or inclusion of signage on Federal lands, consistent with Federal laws, regulations, and policies. We would be happy to provide suggested language to the committee.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I would be happy to answer any questions that you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE  
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 2620, A BILL TO  
FACILITATE THE ADDITION OF PARK ADMINISTRATION AT THE COLTSVILLE  
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.**

**March 17, 2016**

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Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 2620, a bill to facilitate the addition of park administration at the Coltsville National Historical Park.

The Department supports S. 2620.

S. 2620 would amend the law that authorizes the establishment of the Coltsville National Historical Park in Hartford, Connecticut, by making a technical change in one of the requirements for establishing the park. Section 3032(b)(2)(B) of Public Law 113-291 requires the donation of 10,000 square feet of space for park administration and visitor services in the East Armory building of the Colt Armory complex in order for the Secretary of the Interior to designate Coltsville as a unit of the National Park System. S. 2620 would allow this requirement to be met by a donation of 10,000 square feet anywhere in the armory complex, not just specifically in the East Armory building.

The East Armory is the most visible and best-known building within the Colt Armory complex. It houses the site's iconic blue onion dome, and it has been the primary focus of redevelopment of the complex. Immediately adjacent to the East Armory are two brownstone buildings, the Forge Shop and the Foundry, that date to 1855. They are key historic resources within the Colt Armory complex and closely associated with the East Armory.

As the National Park Service (NPS) began working with the property owners (Colt Gateway LLC) and the city of Hartford to implement the legislation, it became clear that a much better location for park administration and visitor services than the East Armory itself would be the adjacent brownstone buildings. This is for two reasons: first, the redevelopment of the East Armory building is far enough along that locating park administration and visitor service facilities within the building would disrupt existing occupancy, including a school and residences. Second, the two brownstone buildings are better suited to welcome visitors because they are at grade and directly adjacent to parking and, therefore, provide universal accessibility. The brownstones together contain approximately 18,000 square feet of space, well in excess of the 10,000 square feet of space required by the law.

A joint letter sent to the NPS by Senator Richard Blumenthal and Representative John Larson, on February 16, 2016, stated that it was their view that an agreement for the donation of the 18,000 square feet of space for park administration and visitor services in the two brownstones immediately adjacent to the East Armory would meet the law's intention, so long as the

agreement also provides for visitor access to the East Armory dome. They noted that the brownstone buildings are so close that it would be logical to infer that the term "East Armory" includes these smaller buildings in the immediate vicinity of the actual East Armory building. The letter from the House and Senate sponsors of the original Colt legislation has given the NPS confidence to move forward with plans to accept the donation of the brownstone buildings. Even so, the Department would like to have the legal certainty about meeting the donation requirement that S. 2620 would provide.

The NPS continues to make steady progress in meeting the other requirements for establishing the Coltsville National Historical Park. Agreements with the property owners (Colt Gateway LLC) and the city of Hartford are nearing completion. The donation of the required space for park administration and visitor services is the next critical step necessary to officially establish Coltsville National Historical Park as a unit of the National Park System, which we would like to complete in the NPS's Centennial year.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I would be happy to answer any questions that you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE  
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 2628, A BILL TO  
AUTHORIZE THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES MEMORIAL  
FOUNDATION TO ESTABLISH A COMMEMORATIVE WORK IN THE DISTRICT  
OF COLUMBIA AND ITS ENVIRONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**March 17, 2016**

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Mr. Chairman, and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 2628, a bill to authorize the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and environs, and for other purposes.

The Department supports S. 2628 that would authorize a memorial commemorating the commitment and service of the Emergency Medical Services profession. This proposal provides that no federal funds be used for establishing the memorial.

Although this proposal does not seek any exceptions to the Commemorative Works Act (CWA), 40 U.S.C. Chapter 89, it should be noted that this proposal to honor the commitment and service of the Emergency Medical Services profession does not fit the typical mold for commemoration. The concept of establishing a memorial to "commitment and service" is not explicitly described in the CWA. However, there is precedent for such commemoration: specifically, the National Peace Corps Memorial, which Congress authorized in 2014.

The CWA precludes a memorial to members of the EMS profession as a group because the memorialization of members of a group may not be authorized until after the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of the last surviving member. Therefore, our support for this proposal is based upon our understanding that this memorial will recognize the "commitment and service" of the Emergency Medical Services profession, not the organization's members.

At the September 15, 2015, meeting of the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission, the Commission reviewed H.R. 2274, the nearly-identical companion bill to S. 2628. It was the consensus of the Commission that the language within the bill addressed the provisions of the CWA that authorize works commemorating individuals or groups. We share the Commission's support for the idea of commemorating the commitment and service of the Emergency Medical Services profession.

Finally, we support the provision of S. 2628 that provides that unspent funds raised for the construction of the memorial be provided to the National Park Foundation for deposit in an interest-bearing account as stated in 40 U.S.C. Section 8906(b)(3).

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I would be happy to answer any questions that you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE  
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 1949, A BILL TO  
PROVIDE FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND SUBMISSION OF SITE AND DESIGN  
PROPOSALS FOR THE NATIONAL LIBERTY MEMORIAL APPROVED FOR  
ESTABLISHMENT IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.**

**March 17, 2016**

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Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on H.R. 1949, a bill to provide for the consideration and submission of site and design proposals for the National Liberty Memorial approved for establishment in the District of Columbia.

The Department opposes H.R. 1949, which would amend Section 2860(c) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (division B of Public Law 112-239; 40 U.S.C. 8903 note) by directing that the Secretary of Agriculture, rather than the Secretary of the Interior or the Administrator of General Services, shall be responsible for the consideration of site and design proposals for the National Liberty Memorial and for the submission of such proposals on behalf of the sponsor to the Commission of Fine Arts and National Capital Planning Commission.

The National Liberty Memorial (Memorial) was authorized on January 2, 2013, by Section 2860 of P.L. 112-239. It allows the National Mall Liberty Fund D.C. to establish a memorial on eligible Federal land to honor the more than 5,000 courageous slaves and free black persons who served as soldiers and sailors or provided civilian assistance during the American Revolution. On September 26, 2014, P.L. 113-176 approved the establishment of the Memorial within Area I, as depicted on the map entitled "Commemorative Areas Washington, DC and Environs", numbered 869/86501 B, and dated June 24, 2003. H.R. 1949 would amend the original memorial authorization to direct the Secretary of Agriculture, and not the Secretary of Interior or Administrator of General Services, to submit, on behalf of the sponsor, site and design proposals to the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission for their approval, and to be guided by the decision criteria set forth in Section 8905(b) of the Commemorative Works Act (CWA), 40 U.S.C. Chapter 89.

In accordance with the CWA, the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission considered this legislation at its meeting on September 14, 2015, and concluded that the CWA sufficiently addresses the site selection and memorial design process that should take place for the Memorial. The commissioners did not believe this legislation would provide the memorial sponsor any advantage nor would it streamline the process. Rather, the commission concluded that the legislation would likely complicate the process.

H.R. 1949 prematurely assumes that the Memorial will be placed on the sponsor's preferred site on a parcel of land under the jurisdiction of the General Services Administration and occupied by

the Department of Agriculture. However, the sponsor has not yet undertaken an Environmental Assessment, a process that requires consideration of multiple sites, and will likely include several sites unrelated to the Department of Agriculture. Further, while the National Park Service and the General Services Administration are accustomed to collaborating on the process of establishing new memorials on land under the jurisdiction of their respective agencies within Washington, D.C., the Department of Agriculture does not have the same experience. A collaboration of all three agencies would be the most expeditious means of establishing the Memorial and would allow full consideration of the sponsor's preferred site as well as those under General Services Administration or National Park Service jurisdiction that might also be considered.

The Department would also note that H.R. 1949 is silent to how it would further affect other sections of the CWA. For example, Section 8906 of the CWA charges the Secretary of the Interior or the Administrator of General Services with issuing the permit for construction after determining that certain qualifications have been met. It could create confusion as to which agency would assume this role if the Department of Agriculture is directed to lead the earlier process.

In closing, the Department believes strongly that the legislation would complicate an already-established process and would likely lead to delays in the establishment of the National Liberty Memorial.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I would be happy to answer any questions that you or other members of the subcommittee may have regarding this bill.

**STATEMENT OF PEGGY O'DELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS,  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE  
SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 2880, A BILL TO REDESIGNATE  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JUNIOR, NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE IN THE STATE OF  
GEORGIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**March 17, 2016**

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Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on H.R. 2880, a bill to redesignate Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes.

The Department supports H.R. 2880.

This legislation has two components: it would redesignate the National Historic Site as a National Historical Park and modestly expand the site's boundaries to incorporate the Prince Hall Masonic Temple, where the Southern Christian Leadership Conference established its initial headquarters on Auburn Avenue in Atlanta, Georgia in 1957. This historic and distinguished civil rights organization was co-founded by Dr. King, who also served as its first president.

The Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site was established by Public Law 96-428 on October 10, 1980. The historic site, located in Atlanta, Georgia, encompasses 38.38 acres, 18.08 of which are Federally owned. The historic elements of the site include: Dr. King's birth home at 501 Auburn Avenue; the original Ebenezer Baptist Church, which he co-pastored with his father from 1960-1968; the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Inc. (commonly referred to as the "The King Center"); the Birth Home Block which contains portions of the historically African-American Sweet Auburn residential community; and, Historic Fire Station No. 6 where white firefighters operated within a predominantly African American community. Approximately 700,000 national and international visitors come to the site each year.

H.R. 2880 would redesignate Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site as the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park. National historical parks are commonly areas of greater physical extent and complexity than national historic sites. Both designations denote units of the national park system, both are considered to be national parks, and both would be subject to the same laws and eligible for the same funding streams. The change in designation would not alter the management or operation of the park in any way. However, designating a unit as a national historical park, as opposed to a national historic site, is a way to let potential visitors know that the unit probably contains a greater collection of resources, or properties, than a national historic site, which may simply be one building. It is a more accurate designation for the collection of resources at this park, and we believe that the re-designation will increase awareness of the park.

H.R. 2880 would also expand the boundary of the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site to include the Prince Hall Masonic Temple at 332-34 Auburn Avenue in Atlanta. Prince Hall was the historic national headquarters for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference where Dr. King was a co-founder and first president. Today, the SCLC is located in a new facility on the same block. Including the Prince Hall Masonic Temple within the unit's boundary will permit the National Park Service to provide technical assistance to the building's owners with respect to repairs, renovations, and maintenance that would preserve its historic integrity.

H.R. 2880 also updates the official park boundary map to recognize a land exchange between the National Park Service and the City of Atlanta that was authorized by Public Law 108-314 in 2005. That exchange permitted the National Park Service to exchange a vacant lot with no historic significance for city-owned property that has enabled the National Park Service to establish easy street access to the park's visitor center and museum. H.R. 2880 replaces the previous park boundary map with a new map that incorporates both the land exchange authorized by Public Law 108-314 and the boundary expansion proposed in H.R. 2880.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I would be happy to answer any questions that you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

Senator CASSIDY. Ms. O'Dell, according to the Park Service's own reports the maintenance backlog is currently \$11.9 billion. It sounds like a great idea to add the Sewall-Belmont House to the National Park Service but, of course, it begs the question how does that affect or would it add to the Park Service maintenance backlog?

Ms. O'DELL. You know, that is always a really hard balance when we look at the significance of a structure and a site like the Sewall-Belmont House. The National Park Service is charged to evaluate sites like that and their potential for coming into the National Park Service on their national significance, their suitability, their feasibility and the ability to manage them as a unit of the Park Service. And that's what we base our decision and recommendation on.

The Sewall-Belmont Home certainly meets all of those criteria, and we would be tasked with coming up with funding to support the continued upkeep of that home. And we also have great partners in the National Women's Party, who have dedicated themselves to the preservation of that site. So we believe between prioritizing the needs in our appropriation and working with the National Women's Party on philanthropy that we will be able to significantly care for the home.

Senator CASSIDY. Yes, but how much will it add to your maintenance backlog? Do you follow what I am saying? Knowing that you have got a big one and so, if you will, this could be a drop in the bucket. But do you have a sense of the needs of the property?

Ms. O'DELL. I believe the estimate on the immediate needs for repairs to the home are about \$1 million.

Senator CASSIDY. Okay. Do you think that could be covered by philanthropy or how much would come out of the budget?

Ms. O'DELL. I believe that's a question yet to be determined.

We need to look at what the projects actually are and look at our foundation to see how they can help us. But we are generally successful in finding donors to help preserve those significant sites, and we would pursue that along with using our appropriation and prioritizing the needs across the service.

Senator CASSIDY. Okay.

Now regarding H.R. 2880, re-designating the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site as a national park, what is the significance of that change in designation?

Ms. O'DELL. A National Historic Site generally refers to a single structure like a President's home, for example. The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site today is an amalgamation of many buildings and portions of the Sweet Auburn neighborhood, and this bill also suggests adding another site where the Southern Christian Leadership Council began their organization. And so the National Historical Park designation signifies that it is more than one structure.

Senator CASSIDY. So it sounds like originally it should have been designated a park as opposed to a site. Is that correct?

Ms. O'DELL. Well I would say a historical park rather than a national park.

Senator CASSIDY. Yes, that is what I meant.

Ms. O'DELL. The proposal is national historical park. And that, quite possibly could have been true in the beginning. I wasn't around then so I don't know the debate. [Laughter.]

Senator CASSIDY. Okay.

In this hearing we have one special resource study bill to look at, the Medgar Evers home in Mississippi. The hearing we had in March last year we had three special resource study bills.

This makes me wonder how many of these special resource studies the Park Service completes actually recommend inclusion in the Park System?

Ms. O'DELL. That's a good question. I don't know that I know the percentage of completed bills that result in recommendations of inclusion. I can certainly get that number for you.

[The information requested was not provided as of the date of printing.]

Senator CASSIDY. And what—

Ms. O'DELL. We currently have about 25 studies in progress and this one would be added that to that mix.

Senator CASSIDY. And why would something be recommended against?

Ms. O'DELL. If it didn't meet one or more of those criteria I mentioned earlier, the national significance, the feasibility, the suitability and if the National Park Service was the only management authority that would be sufficient.

Senator CASSIDY. Sounds great.

Just to confirm as we have these boundary expansions of existing units, I take it these would be not condemnations but they would be donations or voluntary sellers.

Ms. O'DELL. Yes sir, absolutely.

Senator CASSIDY. Okay.

Lastly, regarding the Veterans Park and Federal Recreation Lands Pass, I have a young man working with me who is a veteran. I think he tells me he has a five percent disability because of his tinnitus, ringing in his ear. I have it, but I got it from listening to too much loud music as a teenager.

Would that qualify, if he is otherwise able, exercises, jogs, plays soccer, all this other stuff? Would that five percent tinnitus qualify him for the free pass under this legislation?

Ms. O'DELL. I believe this legislation says that if it is a permanent disability and if—and a veteran would normally show some certification of that to get that free pass.

Actually in practice, the provisions for the access pass and the provision for the age pass would serve the need of this bill under current policies under FLREA for the most part.

Senator CASSIDY. Would it? I think what you are telling me is the bill is not necessary?

Ms. O'DELL. We believe that we could meet this need with the current FLREA law and having it as a permanent authorization for the FLREA law would certainly help.

Senator CASSIDY. Okay.

I now yield to my Ranking Member, Senator Heinrich.

Senator HEINRICH. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Ms. O'Dell, I wanted to ask you a little bit about S. 2039 by our colleague from Wyoming. I know that the geologic feature in this

bill is sacred to many Native American communities and has deep cultural importance. In fact, many of them have their own names for it.

So I wanted to ask, has the Park Service consulted with neighboring tribes on the question of the name?

Ms. O'DELL. We have, sir. We have had multiple conversations with the tribes in the area, and we believe we understand quite well how sacred this land is to the various tribes and why they are offended by its current name.

And we are doing everything in our current authority to honor that. For example, in the development of foundation documents for that park we use both the terms Devil's Tower and Bear Lodge. So we're trying our very best to respect the sensitivities of the tribes.

Senator HEINRICH. Does the Board of Geographic Names at USGS conduct any sort of a tribal consultation process when they deal with naming areas that are significant to individual tribes?

Ms. O'DELL. Yes, sir, I believe they do.

When there is a request for a name change, the Board would reach out to any interested parties and certainly conduct tribal consultations.

Senator HEINRICH. I want to switch to S. 1993. I am a big supporter of national service programs, particularly those that get our youth outside and into our public lands.

Last summer I got the chance to actually join the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps at Bandelier National Monument for a restoration service project where we stabilized some walls of those ancestral Puebloan ruins, and at one point I was actually an AmeriCorps volunteer myself with the Fish and Wildlife Service. So I very much support the concept here, but I noticed that this legislation includes an exemption from prevailing wage law, the minimum wage law, and child labor laws. Of course, national service volunteers are a little different than regular employees. I recognize that, but I want to make sure we are not waiving important worker protection laws.

So can you talk a little bit about those waivers and whether we get that balance right in this legislation and also tell me if the same exemption exists in existing programs like AmeriCorps, or is this different?

Ms. O'DELL. So I believe there's a similar exemption exists in both AmeriCorps and the Public Land Corps legislation that is already authorized and that we use. And we're aware of the Department of Labor's concerns and we've had extensive conversations with them and continue to make certain that we have the authority that we believe we have to pay different wage rates.

And the reason that's so important and we hear it from our partners who support these youth groups that paying out respectable wage, one that is right for the service level that is provided, coupled with the time allowed that they have to be able to secure a permanent position strikes the right balance.

Senator HEINRICH. Okay.

I think under AmeriCorps two of the waivers exist. I'm not sure the child labor waiver exists, so if we can just have that conversation and get to the bottom of that, I would appreciate it.

Ms. O'DELL. We'll circle back with labor.

Senator HEINRICH. Thank you.

Ms. O'DELL. You're welcome.

Senator CASSIDY. Senator King.

Senator KING. Thank you for joining us today, and I appreciate the work of the Park Service.

Ms. O'DELL. Thank you, Senator.

Senator KING. Happy 100th Anniversary.

Ms. O'DELL. Thank you.

Senator KING. I want to complement you and your Department on the work on the app for the passes. I understand we have pilot programs going into effect.

Ms. O'DELL. Yes, you're so kind to mention that. Thank you.

Senator KING. Well, it means a lot and I think it is going to be a great thing for both the visitors and the Park Service, so I appreciate your work on that.

Just one question and we cannot answer this today. But I just wanted to flag for your attention there is an issue with regard to the border of Acadia National Park.

Ms. O'DELL. Yes.

Senator KING. Where the original 1929 Act appeared to be sort of open ended, there was an 1986 Act that was designed to establish permanent boundaries. We have got the Schoodic Peninsula property that has been accepted in apparent contradiction to the contravention to the 1986 law.

So this is something we have to work on and try to get clarified. I understand there is going to be another hearing on some of these park bills in May, but my main purpose is just to bring it to your attention so that we, hopefully, can come to a resolution involving the Park Service and the Committee so that we can clarify this, the ambiguity that has been raised by this recent acquisition at Schoodic.

Ms. O'DELL. Thank you, Senator.

We are well aware of that contradiction, and we're working with our Solicitor's Office in trying to seek clarity on what authorities we have to use either one of those to accept the donation. So we will continue that dialogue and work with you.

Senator KING. One other question.

There is a bill, S. 119, that I am a co-sponsor of, the Wounded Veterans Recreation Act, that would facilitate wounded veterans access to the parks.

I would appreciate it and we don't have to do this today, but for the record if you could give me any cost estimate you might have that that would impose upon the Park Service.

Ms. O'DELL. Thank you. We are contemplating how we might come up with that for you with some—any level of reliable data. So we'll continue to work on that and get back to you.

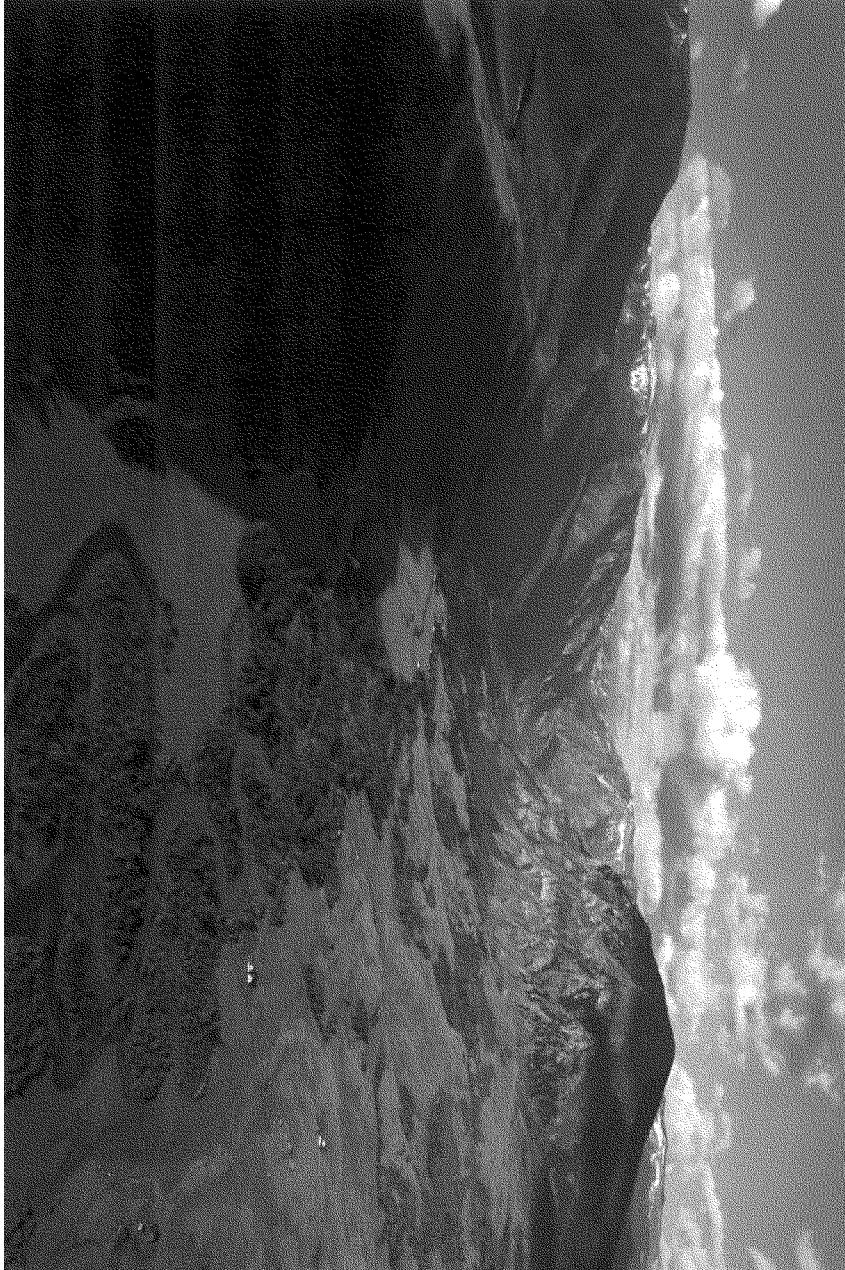
Senator KING. Fine. Thank you very much.

Ms. O'DELL. Thank you, Senator.

Senator CASSIDY. Thank you, Senator.

Senator Daines. I think I am supposed to note that you are not a member of the subcommittee, but you are joining us and we are pleased to have you.

Senator DAINES. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I appreciate that. I am very pleased to have that beautiful landscape behind me here in this discussion about the East Rosebud.  
[The information referred to follows:]



I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, as well as Ranking Member Heinrich, for holding this hearing on Senate Bill 1577, a bill to protect the East Rosebud Creek under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

I was happy to introduce this bill alongside my Montana colleagues, Senator Jon Tester and Congressman Ryan Zinke, in June of last year and also when I was in the House as a lone representative when I was in Congress. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was originally spearheaded by two Montanans, Jon and Frank Craighead. They are well known for their research on grizzly bears.

Ms. O'DELL. Yes.

Senator DAINES. We are very pleased to see a lot of that, I think, foundation work. I remember as a kid in Bozeman, growing up in the schools there watching the films and so forth of the Craigheads and that pioneering research they did on grizzly bears.

Portions of two of Montana's famous rivers are designated as Wild and Scenic already. The Flathead River was designated on October 12th, 1976. The North Fork from the Canadian Border downstream to the Hungry Horse Reservoir, beautiful, wild country in Montana. The Missouri River was designated on October 12th, 1976, and the segment from Fort Benton downstream to Robinson Bridge.

If Senate Bill 1577 becomes law it will be the first Wild and Scenic designation in Montana in 40 years, and if there's ever a drainage to protect, East Rosebud Creek is it. According to local stakeholders more than 90 percent of local landowners and all subdivision associations and ranches in a ten-mile radius are backing this bill.

It is hard to get anybody to agree on any one topic. [Laughter.]

With that kind of widespread situation for a five-mile radius the approval rate goes up to 99 percent. It is hard to get that kind of unanimity with anything here in Washington.

This bill protects a drainage that fuels the bustling tourism county of South Central Montana, Carbon County. Tourism accounts for over \$70 million per year in Carbon County. In fact, the East Rosebud drainage is part of the Absaroka Bear Tooth Wilderness where I grew up backpacking and fishing. I have plenty of stories that will take up too much time. Just this last summer my wife and I were up on those plateaus chasing golden trout with an elk hair caddis, just last August. Golden trout are hard to find and even harder to catch but we did both.

The East Rosebud Creek Trail is called the Beaten Path in our state because nearly 6,000 to 7,000 visitors come from all over the world to hike along its shore and fish its many lakes, enjoy its many waterfalls. In fact, it is the third most hiked trail in the Bear Tooth and one of the launching spots to Granite Peak, a peak that I climbed when I was in college at the highest point in Montana at 12,799 feet.

The bill would designate sections of East Rosebud Creek entirely on public land, 13 miles of the creek up to the wilderness boundary and a seven-mile segment as recreational up to the boundary with the Forest Service. The Forest Service has studied this area and recommends its wild and scenic designation in its forest plan. The Administration supports this bill. The entire Montana delegation supports this bill.

There is no significant mineral potential within the protected area. Now there is some oil and gas activity outside of the wilderness area and private land neighboring this designation, though not within the designation.

I plan to strengthen this bill in mark up to ensure this designation does not impact activities occurring outside the protected areas similar to language included in Representative Zinke's House companion bill and language that has been associated with Wild and Scenic designations in the past.

So thank you, Chairman Cassidy. Thank you, Ranking Member Heinrich.

I wish we could do a field hearing with the East Rosebud there in the background. Anybody that is not sold on this will just need to come out there and see it and you would be sold.

I also want to thank the Administration for their support, and I look forward to moving this bill forward.

Senator HEINRICH. Mr. Chair, do you mind if I ask a question of the Senator from Montana?

You thought you were going to get off easy, didn't you? [Laughter.]

So if Montana looks like that, how do you bring yourself to get on the airplane and come back here every week? [Laughter.]

Senator DAINES. The hardest 17 minute ride every Monday morning is from my house to the airport.

Senator HEINRICH. I would say that the numbers that you referenced are a testament to the work that has gone into this. There is almost nothing these days that gets approval ratings like that, certainly not those of us who sit on this dais.

Senator DAINES. Right.

Well thanks, I appreciate it.

Senator CASSIDY. I will also note that you pronounce creek like Jimmy Stewart did in Mr. Smith goes to Washington. [Laughter.]

So anyway, I assume crick is creek.

Senator DAINES. It was a crick. A creek is a crick. [Laughter.]

And a coyote is not a coyote, it is a cayote, just for the Montana people that are here.

Senator CASSIDY. I have no more questions.

Senator, do you?

Thank you, Ms. O'Dell, for your testimony.

If there are no more questions today, members may also submit follow up written questions for the record. The hearing record will be open for two weeks.

Again, thank you for your time and your testimony today.

Ms. O'DELL. Thank you, Senator, thank you.

Senator CASSIDY. This hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 3:33 p.m. the hearing was adjourned.]

## **APPENDIX MATERIAL SUBMITTED**

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**U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
Hearing on March 17, 2016 regarding Pending Legislation  
Questions for the Record Submitted to Ms. Peggy O'Dell**

**Questions from Senator Martin Heinrich**

**Questions:** Do existing national service programs like AmeriCorps have exemptions from prevailing wage, minimum wage, and child labor laws?

If so, are they identical to the provision in S. 1993?

If not, how do they differ?

**Answer:** The National Park Service (NPS) participates in national service programs under the American Conservation and Youth Service Corps (AmeriCorps), the Public Lands Corps (PLC), the Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), and the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). These programs are all exempt from prevailing wage and minimum wage laws, but not child labor laws.

Federal youth programs whose authorizing statutes empower the Secretary of the Interior to determine compensation of their participants are not covered by Davis-Bacon labor (prevailing wage) standards. Section 4 of the Davis-Bacon Act, 40 U.S.C. § 3146, provides that the statute “does not supersede or impair any authority otherwise granted by federal law to provide for the establishment of specific wage rates.” The authorizing statutes for the Youth Conservation Corps (16 U.S.C 1703(a)(3)) and the Public Lands Corps (16 U.S.C. 1726) specifically require the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to set the rates of pay or living allowances for the Corps’ participants. The statutory authority for other youth programs, such as the AmeriCorps (42 U.S.C. 126551*l*) and VISTA (42 U.S.C. 4995), specify the living allowances and other benefits that must be provided. Because the programs are designed as a work and learn experience, the participants are not considered employees for purposes of pay and hours and are not entitled to wages from the program that meet the requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act (minimum wage).

AmeriCorps and VISTA (42 U.S.C 12591*a*), and the PLC (16 U.S.C 1723(b)), comply with child labor laws by requiring a minimum age of 16 for year-round programs and either a high school diploma equivalent or a commitment to seek to finish high school. The child labor laws allow a greater flexibility in hours and age when school is out so all of the above programs and YCC allow youth as young as 14 to participate (16 U.S.C. 1702(a)) in summer programs.

S. 1993 requires the participating organization to provide compensation to each 21st Century Service Corps (21CSC) participant that shall include one or more of the following: a wage, a stipend, a living allowance, an educational credit that may be applied towards a program of postsecondary education at a participating

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institution of higher education that agrees to award such credit for participation in a 21CSC project. The bill provides an explicit exclusion from the Davis-Bacon prevailing wage law, and it references the National and Community Service Act to categorize participants as other than federal employees, so that 21CSC participants would be treated identically to AmeriCorps and VISTA participants in terms of being exempt from the minimum wage law. And, although the heading of section 6(c) suggests there is an exemption in the bill to child labor laws, there is no exemption.

In summary, in terms of rules for compensation standards and child labor standards, there is no practical difference between the way participants are treated under existing national service programs that the NPS participates in and the way they would be treated under S. 1993.

**Questions from Senator Barrasso**

**Question 1:** Does the National Park Service take into account all future management costs when considering supporting a new addition to the National Park System?

**Answer:** Yes, future management costs are considered as part of the NPS evaluation of potential new units to the National Park System. When the NPS conducts congressionally authorized special resource studies, four criteria are evaluated: national significance, suitability, feasibility, and the need for direct NPS management or administration instead of alternative protection by other agencies or the private sector. If a site is found to be nationally significant and suitable, the NPS must then evaluate feasibility. Feasibility criterion is defined in section 1.3.3 of NPS Management Policies as:

*To be feasible as a new unit of the national park system, an area must (1) be of sufficient size and appropriate configuration to ensure sustainable resource protection and visitor enjoyment (taking into account current and potential impacts from sources beyond proposed park boundaries) and (2) be capable of efficient administration by the NPS at a reasonable cost.*

*The feasibility evaluation also considers the ability of the NPS to undertake new management responsibilities in light of current and projected availability of funding and personnel.*

When evaluating feasibility, NPS special studies consider the fiscal impact of adding new units and/or management responsibilities to the national park system. The fiscal impact may include costs for operations, maintenance of existing

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facilities, resource protection, and interpretation; the construction of necessary new facilities and development of associated infrastructure; and the repair or rehabilitation of existing facilities within a potential park boundary area. As an agency, the NPS recognizes that newly authorized areas have to compete with more than 400 existing units of the national park system and other NPS responsibilities, all dealing with substantial funding needs.

**Question 2:** Please describe the process the agency takes when determining whether it is a financially responsible decision support an addition to the National Park Service portfolio.

**Answer:** If all four new unit criteria are met, study teams develop management alternatives that include cost estimates for facility acquisition and or construction, facility operations, and maintenance costs over the life of the potential unit and its assets. A Total Cost of Facility Ownership (TCFO) approach has been developed to analyze the life cycle of facilities costs—from planning and design, to long-term maintenance and disposition.

A TCFO analysis provides a comprehensive projection of facilities costs over a 50-year horizon, and it contributes to projections of annual operating costs and one-time facilities costs. For instance, annualized preventative maintenance, facility operations, and unscheduled maintenance costs can be produced using a TCFO calculator tool and then built into base-funded annual operating costs.

The TCFO approach informs the consideration of life cycle costs in the evaluation of feasibility. Should extreme and/or unanticipated costs be uncovered through the TCFO analysis, the feasibility analysis is reassessed and the revision of findings considered. This is often also a prompt for a close look at the boundary configuration options, to determine if only the most critical resources have been included in the potential boundary and whether feasibility would be enhanced by a modified boundary.

**Question 3:** Has the agency ever opposed an addition to the National Park System for financial reasons?

**Answer:** Yes, some special resource studies have come to a negative finding based on financial reasons within feasibility analysis. One example of a study with a negative finding based on feasibility from 2015 is the Battle of Camden and Historic Camden Special Resource Study. The costs associated with acquisition, development, restoration, and operation of these sites in South Carolina led to the determination that addition to the National Park System is not feasible.

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Overall, about two-thirds of authorized studies in recent years have come to a negative conclusion. Of these studies, many came to a negative finding based on evaluation of national significance and/or suitability criteria prior to the feasibility analysis. The NPS does not track how many studies conclude with negative findings based specifically on feasibility criteria, but this has occurred in several cases.

**Question 4:** How many feasibility studies has the Park Service completed since 2010 and how many of those resulted in support for additions to the Park System?

**Answer:** Thirty-five authorized studies have been completed since January 2010. Twelve of these studies had a positive finding for potential new national park units, additions to existing units, National Heritage Areas, and Wild and Scenic Rivers, or National Trails.

As a clarifying note, studies consist of primarily two types: congressionally authorized studies, which include special resource studies for new units (also called new area studies) as well as studies for National Heritage Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and National Trails; and reconnaissance surveys. A reconnaissance survey is either requested by a member of Congress or by the Secretary of the Interior, and is a study effort of limited scope that the NPS is authorized to conduct without prior Congressional approval and without public involvement. By law, reconnaissance surveys are limited to a cost of less than \$25,000. Reconnaissance surveys are used to present preliminary assessments of the eligibility of a site or resource for inclusion in the national park system, or may focus on one of the new unit criteria (for instance, a review of feasibility).

**Question 5:** In your testimony on Senator Boxer's bill to allow for a land donation to add to the John Muir National Historic Site, you indicated that some lands added to the Site include critical habitat for the whipsnake, a species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. You went on to say that the acquired land would be open to new public, recreational uses but assured this Committee that the habitat would be protected. What analysis has the agency undertaken to assess critical habitat and what sort of activities does the agency feel are compatible with species conservation? Has the Fish and Wildlife Service been involved in the assessment?

**Answer:** A detailed habitat management plan for the Alameda whipsnake on this 44-acre parcel has been prepared by the John Muir Land Trust, the current owners of the property. This plan includes a detailed analysis and indicates that recreational use (hiking, horseback riding and biking) on current roads and trails will not have an impact on the species or the critical habitat. The Trust's plan is consistent with the current recreational activities allowed in the park, which is also part of the critical habitat for the Alameda whipsnake. The plan was

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completed in consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and is consistent with the current draft recovery plan prepared by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Questions from Senator Elizabeth Warren**

**Question 1:** As you know, March is Women's History Month, and the National Park Service plays a critical role in recognizing the occasion and telling the story of women in America. Senator Barbara Mikulski's S. 1975, the Sewall-Belmont House Act of 2015, would establish the Sewall-Belmont House and Museum as a National Historic Site. As the headquarters of the National Woman's Party, the Sewall-Belmont House is a key location in the civil rights history of this country, and I am a cosponsor of Senator Mikulski's legislation. Could you describe how the Sewall-Belmont House Act could enhance the Park Service's celebration of Women's History Month and other NPS initiatives to recognize women's history?

**Answer:** On April 11, 2016, President Obama designated the Sewell-Belmont House as the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument, making the site a unit of the National Park System. With this designation, the intention of S. 1975 has been fulfilled.

Inclusion of the house as a NPS unit fills identified gaps in the representation of women's history in the national park system. Where Seneca Falls, a NPS site, marks the beginning of the women's rights movement in the United States, the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument represents the continued story to secure women's equal rights and protections in this nation. Under the leadership of Alice Paul, the works of the National Woman's Party (NWP) led to the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment giving women the right to vote. The NWP remained a critical political force for women's rights throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century with both the NWP and the National Organization for Women advocating for the Equal Rights Amendment, which would constitutionally protect women from discrimination. In 1929, the NWP established their headquarters in the Sewall-Belmont House and used its Washington, D.C. location to help lobby for women's political, social, and economic equality on a national stage.

Inclusion of the site in the National Park System increases the number of women's history units and strengthens the overall interpretation of women's history. The designation supports the NPS goal of including sites representing more diversity. It recognizes an important American story of our continued struggle for equality thereby enhancing our ability to recognize the contributions of the women from Seneca Falls until today. In addition, having an iconic site

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commemorating the struggle for women's rights in a prominent location in the nation's capital offers a wealth of opportunities to recognize this movement. Overall, inclusion supports telling the full story of our nation and provides opportunities for the NPS to share a more complete story of women's history in America for women's history events and initiatives.

**Question 2:** Beyond the potential Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site, many units of the National Park System directly relate to the rich history of women in America. As we approach the 2020 centennial of women winning the right to vote nationwide, could you describe how the Park Service is preparing for this important anniversary?

**Answer:** The NPS launched its Women's History Initiative in 2011 with the goal of furthering the representation of diverse stories within the National Historic Landmarks Program and exploring how the legacy of women can be recognized, preserved, and interpreted for future generations. Since the initiative's inception, six properties that reflect and tell important stories about women's history in America or about the construction of gender roles in American culture have received National Historic Landmark designation. They are:

- Dr. Bob's Home (Dr. Robert and Anne Smith House), Akron, OH (2012)
- Stepping Stones (Bill and Lois Wilson House), Katonah, NY (2012)
- Casa Dra. Concha Meléndez Ramírez, San Juan, PR (2013)
- Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Hartford, CT (2013)
- Perkins Homestead, Newcastle, ME (2014)
- Lydia Pinkham House, Lynn, MA (2014)
- Marjory Stoneman Douglas House, Miami, FL (2015)

In addition to identifying potential NHL designations, the NPS is also using this initiative as an opportunity to improve upon the interpretation of women's history within national parks. The NPS is asking all of its more than 400 sites to include the forgotten and untold stories—those stories include the role of all women in the making of this nation, inclusive of women-of-color and First Nations' women. Women's Rights National Historical Park (NHP), in Seneca Falls, N.Y., is preparing to celebrate 2017, when New York State granted women the right to vote, and the national anniversary in 2020. In New York, legislation has been passed to create a state centennial commission. Noemi Ghazala, Superintendent of the Women's Rights NHP, serves as the NPS liaison to the commission. Regarding a national celebration, Women's Rights NHP is in the early stages of planning. Among the projects being considered are monthly art exhibits by women artists representing the diversity of this nation, educational outreach programs centered on diverse women's roles in the nation, and a special presentation related to the new \$5, \$10, and \$20 bills when their concept designs will be released in 2020. Harriett Tubman will be featured on the \$20 bill and the other two bills will also feature images of important women or significant

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events related to women's roles in our democracy. The addition of women on our currency has sparked a national conversation on the history of women in our nation which the NPS can cultivate further for this historic anniversary.

SENATOR LAMAR ALEXANDER  
STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD  
S. 1943, SHILOH NATIONAL MILITARY PARK BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT AND  
PARKER'S CROSSROADS BATTLEFIELD DESIGNATION ACT  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

In this country, we talk a lot about the importance of science and math, but on standardized tests, most high school seniors in America score the worst in history.

Throughout my time in the Senate, I have emphasized the importance of teaching American history and civics so our children can grow up learning what it means to be an American. One way to encourage the study of U.S. history and what it means to be an American is to protect significant historical sites for future generations.

The Battle of Shiloh was one of the most significant battles of the Civil War, and at the time of the battle, it was the bloodiest battle in American history with more than 23,000 casualties. The Shiloh National Military Park preserves the story of that battle and provides the public with a continued opportunity to understand the Battle of Shiloh.

S. 1943, the Shiloh National Military Park Boundary Adjustment and Parker's Crossroads Battlefield Designation Act, would expand the boundary of Shiloh National Military Park to include the Davis Bridge, Fallen Timbers, and Russell House battlefields within the Siege and Battle of Corinth boundary of the park.

In 2004, the National Park Service completed the "Corinth Special Resource Study and Boundary Adjustment Environmental Assessment." That assessment recommend 18 sites be included in the boundary of the Shiloh National Military Park. In 2007, Congress expanded the Park to include 12 of those recommended sites. This legislation would allow for inclusion of three of the six remaining recommended sites.

According to the National Park Service, the Davis Bridge, Fallen Timbers, and Russell House battlefields "would contribute significantly to telling the remarkable story of the Union Army's Mississippi Valley Campaign during the Civil War, especially the Battle of Shiloh, Tennessee and the Siege of Corinth, Mississippi. The Mississippi Valley Campaign was a major milestone on the road that led to the final success of the Union Army in the war and the ultimate reunification of the nation."

The landscape of these recommended battlefields has remained largely intact and provides a unique opportunity to relate and interpret these areas to the Shiloh Campaign. The National Park Service has already determined these battlefields are nationally significant and need to be preserved and protected. Additionally, two years ago, the National Park Service testified in support of this legislation.

The bill would also designate Parker's Crossroads battlefield as an affiliated area of the National Park System. Parker's Crossroads is currently a state-owned park that provides visitors with the opportunity for a self-guided driving tour and over two miles of paved walking trails. The Parker's Crossroads Battlefield is also listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Designating this state park as an affiliated area of the National Park System will create a unique partnership between the National Park Service and the local and state government. The area would be managed jointly by the City of Parker's Crossroads and the Tennessee Historical Commission. This designation will allow Parker's Crossroads to continue to be owned and managed at the local level while also receiving technical assistance from the National Park Service, as well as the national recognition that comes with being associated with the National Park System.

As Americans, we have a special obligation to preserve and protect our heritage. Expanding the boundary of the Shiloh National Military Park and allowing Parker's Crossroads to become an affiliated area of the National Park System will further our understanding of the Civil War and its important place in our nation's history.

I thank the Committee for holding this hearing today.



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## American Discovery Trail Society

*Making connections coast-to-coast*

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(540) 720-5489  
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### Statement of the American Discovery Trail Society

Submitted to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
National Parks Subcommittee

Hearing on March 17, 2016

The American Discovery Trail Society strongly urges the National Parks Subcommittee and the Energy and Natural Resources Committee to support S. 2608, "The American Discovery Trail Act of 2016."

The American Discovery Trail is America's only coast-to-coast, multi-use hiking trail. The American Discovery Trail Society is a national membership-based and volunteer-based nonprofit organization that over the past 20 years has developed the trail in cooperation with countless local, regional, and national trails groups, corporations, and local and state governments.

The American Discovery Trail is all on publicly accessible lands. It traverses a patchwork of lands managed by numerous municipal, county, state, and federal government and other land managers. Its route includes more than 1500 miles of federal land, some 25 percent of the trail's 6800 miles through Delaware, Maryland, Washington D.C., West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, and California. The trail's national significance has been confirmed by a National Park Service study recommending it for inclusion in the National Trails System.

This legislation will include the federal government as a full partner with the states, counties, and other organizations in this effort by allowing the trail route to be marked with signs on federal land. The trail is in use today so signage is important. A consistent federal policy is important because the trail passes through 14 national parks, 16 national forests, many Bureau of Land Management units, a national wildlife refuge, and a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers unit.

The legislation is very simple, and will cost the taxpayers nothing. The American Discovery Trail Society proposes to provide the signage, with the signs consistent with the format used by National Scenic Trails and National Historic Trails. All we are asking for is permission to place them. Proper signs to keep trail users from getting lost is a common-sense safety issue.

This lack of signage on federal land is perhaps the biggest issue holding back greater use of the trail. Trails benefit local economies, and because it passes through many small towns and cities, the American Discovery Trail benefits local economies in ways that other trails do not. So increased use means increased benefits for all 15 trail states.

#### **Current Federal Approaches Are Inconsistent**

This legislation will bring a consistent policy toward the American Discovery Trail on federal lands. Currently, there is no coherent policy, and different federal entities apply different policies to the trail. These policies are also applied inconsistently among trails.

Many federal land managers see no problem in marking the American Discovery Trail. Others deny permission because the ADT has not been congressionally designated as a national trail, even though they allow the marking of other trails that lack official congressional designation.

To give just a few examples of this inconsistent policy on federal lands:

U.S. Forest Service officials at Wayne National Forest in Ohio at first allowed the American Discovery Trail Society to mark the trail. But later managers changed this policy, saying that they cannot allow the American Discovery Trail to be marked because it has not been designated by Congress as a national trail. But the forest applies this policy inconsistently: The Wayne National Forest does allow signage for the Buckeye Trail, a long-distance Ohio trail built by volunteers that is very similar to the American Discovery Trail.

Officials at the regional U.S. Forest Service office in Denver, which oversees the six national forests in Colorado through which the American Discovery Trail passes, denied permission because the ADT lacks congressional designation. However, the national forests in Colorado do mark the Colorado Trail, a long-distance trail through several national forests that began as a citizens' initiative and is not congressionally designated as a national trail. (This signage request was supported not only by American Discovery Trail representatives, but also by representatives of the Colorado Trail and Continental Divide National Scenic Trail.)

There are many examples that belie the argument that a long-distance trail cannot be marked on federal land without congressional designation. The John Muir Trail is a 212-mile trail in California that passes through several national forests and national parks. It has not been congressionally designated, but the agencies provide signs for it. The Tahoe Rim Trail is an interstate trail through national forests in California and Nevada that has not been congressionally designated, but is marked by the U.S. Forest Service.

Capitol Reef and Canyonlands national parks have denied permission to post signs, but this approach is not consistent among national parks. C & O Canal National Historic Park in Maryland allowed signage for the American Discovery Trail at first, then a new superintendent had the signs taken down. In this case, the reasoning is unclear, because the park does not even allow signage for the federally designated Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail.

In many instances, federal agencies have allowed the trail to be marked. Greenbelt Park, a unit of the National Park Service in Maryland, recently permitted an American Discovery Trail volunteer to post signs marking the route. In West Virginia, for the past 20 years, the Monongahela National Forest has allowed marking of the American Discovery Trail where it passes through the Dolly Sods Wilderness Area.

This lack of a consistent policy is leading to lost opportunities to improve the trail experience on federal lands. The state of Nevada has invited the ADT Society to apply for grants in which the state would pay to mark the trail through the state, including on federal land. But both the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service have denied repeated requests for permission to mark the trail through their lands.

#### **A Safety Issue**

Signage is a safety issue, particularly in the deserts and remote wilds of Nevada, Utah, and western Colorado. The American Discovery Trail exists, and hikers are using it. Hikers who become lost can face severe, even life-threatening, danger.

#### **State Support**

This approach of the federal government contrasts with that of many states. For example, at the direction of its governor, the Delaware Department of Transportation marked with signs the American Discovery Trail route through the entire state. States including Iowa, Indiana, and Nebraska include the American Discovery Trail as important part of their state trails plans. The Nevada State Parks have partnered several times to support ADT Society-sponsored events on the trail, such as trail runs, bike rides, and an equestrian ride. The ADT passes through several Nevada state parks, and the park managers recognize that the American Discovery Trail brings much-wanted and much-deserved attention to the state's many scenic and natural assets.

#### **Significance of the American Discovery Trail**

These inconsistent policies from park to park and forest to forest come despite the fact that the National Park Service has studied the American Discovery Trail and its route and deemed it worthy of designation as a National Discovery Trail.

The National Trails System lacks a coast-to-coast trail. Whether or not it is officially a part of the National Trails System, the American Discovery Trail is currently greatly benefiting the system by supplying the connections that the National Trails System lacks. The ADT links five National Scenic Trails, 12 National Historic Trails, and 34 National Recreation Trails with urban areas, such as San Francisco, Denver, and Cincinnati, as well as many small towns and cities. It visits 10,000 sites of historic, cultural, and natural interest as it provides a true backbone to the National Trails System.

The American Discovery Trail is not only the first coast-to-coast trail, but is also the first long-distance trail consciously designed to provide connections in the National Trails System. The United States is blessed with a number of irreplaceable long-distance trails, such as the Appalachian Trail, the Pacific Crest Trail, and the Continental Divide Trail. However, no official trail links these jewels or connects the entire nation from coast to coast. The American Discovery Trail fills that gap and helps to unify the country physically, geographically, and spiritually in people's imaginations. The ADT is a network of routes and trails that links the Pacific coast, where Sir Francis Drake touched

land in California, with the Atlantic coast, where early Dutch and Swedish colonists settled in Delaware.

The ADT fulfills the primary objective of the National Trails System Act. The National Trails System Act's "Statement of Policy" clearly specifies that "in order to provide for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding population ... trails should be established (i) primarily, near the urban areas of the Nation, and (ii) secondarily, within scenic areas and along historic travel routes of the Nation which are often more remotely located."

The National Park Service has long recognized the need for more trails closer to population centers, and as the National Park Service stated about congressionally designated trails in recent congressional testimony: "Currently, there are no trails that are primarily intended to tie together existing trails and urban areas into the national network envisioned by the National Trails System Act." In addition to those previously mentioned, the urban areas the ADT passes through include Sacramento, Kansas City, St. Louis, Omaha, Des Moines, and Washington, D.C.

The route of the ADT was developed more than 20 years ago through the cooperative efforts of citizens working with federal, state, and local land managers; state and local planning and transportation departments; state departments of natural resources; and citizens' trail groups. The route is entirely on publicly accessible land. It incorporates existing hiking trails, towpaths, rail-trails, country roads, small town sidewalks, and big city greenways in a cooperative effort that leaves the management and maintenance of these segments in the hands of the existing local organizations and governments.

The American Discovery Trail has stood the test of time. It is now more than 20 years old and has been traveled continuously since its inception. The ADT Society has been publishing complete guidebooks for the entire route for many years. Recognition and use of the ADT continue to increase—each spring adventurers aspiring to travel coast to coast depart from the Atlantic or the Pacific. But more importantly, thousands of citizens have hiked smaller parts of it, many with the goal of sampling many different sections of the trail through diverse areas of America.

Many studies have found that trails and greenways positively affect property values, small business revenues, tourism, and even corporate relocations. Trails have shown again and again that they can be engines stimulating economic activity, as shown by the bike shops and inns along the North Bend Rail Trail in West Virginia and the Katy Trail in Missouri. Many studies have found that having a trail near one's home is an amenity that adds to property values.

Many localities support the American Discovery Trail because they recognize that trails benefit local economies. Because its route passes through many small towns and cities, the American Discovery Trail benefits local economies in ways that trails that avoid these areas do not. For example, the Quad Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau (Illinois and Iowa) supports the ADT because it increases tourism in their area. As the executive director of the West Virginia Community Development Hub has written, the American Discovery Trail "brings much needed tourism dollars and jobs to West Virginia" and provides "development opportunities for communities along the trail." As a former mayor

of Green Mountain Falls, Colorado, wrote: “The American Discovery Trail has been instrumental in assisting us in our local fund-raising efforts, supporting grant requests, and capturing the interest of state, county, and local officials.”

In conclusion, S. 2608 does not ask for appropriations or additional funds. It does not spend tax dollars or budgetary outlays. It does not override any consistent federal policy on marking trails, but it does clarify a policy in a way that will benefit trail users and local economies. The effort to develop and constantly improve the American Discovery Trail has always been a public-private partnership spearheaded by the private sector, and we seek to strengthen that partnership.

We therefore ask for your support of S. 2608.

Eric Seaborg  
President  
American Discovery Trail Society  
March 16, 2016



March 23, 2016

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski and Maria Cantwell  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Testimony in support of S.1577

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

On behalf of American Rivers, I am pleased to submit this testimony in support of S.1577, the East Rosebud Wild and Scenic Rivers Act sponsored by Montana Senator Jon Tester and co-sponsored by Montana Senator Steve Daines. This bill received a hearing before the National Parks Subcommittee on March 17, 2016.

American Rivers is the leading organization working to conserve our nation's rivers and streams. Since our founding in 1973, we have protected and restored more than 150,000 miles of rivers through Wild and Scenic River designations, on-the-ground projects, and our annual America's Most Endangered Rivers® campaign.

Our Northern Rockies office based in Bozeman, Montana has been a leading advocate for the permanent protection of East Rosebud Creek since 2009, when a hydropower project was proposed on it on lands managed by the Custer Gallatin National Forest. That project subsequently was withdrawn in the face of strong public opposition in 2013.

For the past seven years, American Rivers has been spearheading an effort to secure new Wild and Scenic River designations for select waterways flowing across federal public lands in western Montana. Of all the stream reaches that we have identified as prime candidates for designation, none is more deserving than the 20 miles of East Rosebud Creek from its source in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness down to where it exits Forest Service land. Its magnificent scenery; outstanding fishing, hiking and whitewater paddling opportunities; and abundant fish and wildlife make East Rosebud Creek a perfect candidate for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Moreover, S.1577 enjoys virtually unanimous support amongst local residents and the entire Montana congressional delegation.

In conclusion, American Rivers urges the Committee to approve S.1577 at the earliest possible date so it can move to the full Senate for consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott Bosse  
Northern Rockies Director



STATEMENT OF SENATOR BENJAMIN L. CARDIN (D-MD)

March 17, 2016

KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL WALL OF REMEMBRANCE ACT OF 2015

MR. CARDIN, M. Chairman, I am here today to discuss the Korean War Veterans Memorial and the legislation I introduced with Senator Boozman. This legislation honors Americans who died during the Korean War by adding a "Wall of Remembrance" to the Korean War Veterans Memorial, without the use of public funds.

The Korean War, often referred to as the "Forgotten War," began on June 25, 1950, when the Democratic People's Republic of Korea launched a surprise attack on the neighboring Republic of Korea. Against the expectations of the North Koreans and the Soviet Union, the United States immediately provided military support to South Korea, and the UN Security Council passed a resolution (UNSC Resolution 82) demanding a North Korean withdrawal to the 38th Parallel. The conflict ended with the signing of an armistice on July 27, 1953. By the time this armistice was signed, 36,575 Americans had sacrificed their lives, 103,284 were wounded, 7,140 were captured, and 664 were missing.

To honor the Americans that served during the Korean War, Congress passed a law on October 28, 1986, authorizing the construction of a Korean War Veterans Memorial. This Korean War Veterans Memorial, however, does not honor the Americans who died during the war by displaying the names of the fallen.

The Wall of Remembrance that this bill authorizes will list the names of members of the Armed Forces of the United States who died in theater in the Korean War, as well as the number of service members who were wounded in action, are listed as missing in action, or who were prisoners of war during the Korean War. The Wall will also list the number of members of the Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army, the Republic of Korean Armed Forces, and other nations of the United Nations Command who were killed in action, wounded in action, are listed as missing in action or were prisoners of war.

Building a “Wall of Remembrance” to honor the 36,575 Americans who died in the Korean War would not deviate from the norm: many countries who fought in the war also honor their fallen, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall contains the name of Americans who died during that war. Korean War Veterans Memorials that display the names of a nation’s fallen soldiers can be found across the globe in the 22 UN coalition countries. The Republic of Korea even displays the personal names of the 36,575 Americans who died during the war. These names are etched on bronze tablets and listed by home state. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial’s wall also lists the names of those who died in the theater of its respective war. It has also been augmented with the additions of the three-soldier sculpture and Nurse Memorial.

The addition of the “Wall of Remembrance” would also not cost any taxpayer dollars. Korean War veterans who have campaigned for this wall have also been raising money for the wall’s construction. This legislation would not allow any federal funds to be used for the construction of this wall. Construction therefore would be privately financed.

Authorizing the construction of a Wall of Remembrance is just one way we can help ensure that those who died while serving our country in the “Forgotten War” are no longer forgotten. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

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**Statement of Jim Lighthizer  
President, Civil War Trust**

**Before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
United States Senate  
Subcommittee on National Parks Legislative Hearing on 24 bills  
March 17, 2016**

**Introduction**

On behalf of the Civil War Trust, I am writing in strong support of S. 718, to modify the boundary of the Petersburg National Battlefield in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and for other purposes. The Civil War Trust has preserved more than 42,000 acres of critically important battlefield land, including 22,107 acres in Virginia. Of that figure, 2,419 acres are on battlefields associated with the campaign and siege of Petersburg.

This legislation proposes to expand the boundaries of Petersburg National Battlefield to include an additional 7,238 acres of critical battlefield. It provides the National Park Service (NPS) with the authority to acquire land, on a willing seller basis, or via donation within the boundary expansion area, as recommended by NPS in 2005 as part of its Final General Management Plan. This expansion will create opportunities for visitors to access these significant landscapes and resources, allowing the park to convey a more comprehensive Civil War story.

The boundary expansion would include 12 battlefields associated with the Petersburg Campaign of 1864-1865, including Boynton Plank Road, the Crater, Five Forks, Fort Stedman, Globe Tavern, Hatcher's Run, Peebles' Farm, Petersburg-Breakthrough, Reams' Station and White Oak Road.

**The Petersburg Campaign**

Some of the heaviest, bloodiest and most consequential battles of the Civil War were fought around the city of Petersburg, as legendary generals Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee struggled to control the critical supply lines into the Confederate capital at Richmond. Over a ten-month period from June 1864 to April 1865, 108 separate engagements covering more than 176 square miles were fought in and around Petersburg. By early April 1865, the depleted Confederate trench lines finally collapsed, allowing the Union army to take control of both Richmond and Petersburg. The remnants of Lee's army fled west, but ultimately surrendered at Appomattox Courthouse on April 9, 1865. These last few days around Petersburg are considered to be among the most critical of the war, and led to the ultimate collapse of the Confederacy and reunification of the United States.

**Threats to the Petersburg Battlefields**

More than 2,500 acres of hallowed ground are currently preserved as part of Petersburg National Battlefield, including portions of the Crater battlefield, Fort Stedman, and Five Forks. However, Petersburg and Dinwiddie County lie in a region of intensive growth, at the intersection of the busy I-95 and I-85 corridors. The National Park faces threats to historic resources from incompatible residential, commercial and industrial development, both inside and outside the existing NPS boundary. Significant battlefields associated with the Petersburg Campaign have already been lost.

Concerned about these threats, the NPS developed an Assessment of Integrity Report that identified nationally significant battlefield lands critical to the park's mission that lie outside its current boundaries. This report included the 12 significant battlefields, all of which were also recognized as nationally

significant historic resources in the 1993 Congressionally authorized study on the status of the nation's Civil War battlefields, the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report.

#### **Living Monuments and Outdoor Classrooms**

America's battlefields, like those associated with the Petersburg Campaign, are an irreplaceable part of our shared national heritage. When preserved, these battlefields serve as outdoor classrooms to educate current and future generations about the defining moment in our country's history. They are living monuments, not just to the men in blue and gray who struggled in the trenches of Petersburg, but to all who have proudly worn our nation's uniform.

Preserved battlefields are also economic engines, generating tourism dollars that are extremely important to state and local economies. They are heritage tourism destinations, producing revenue through spending at local restaurants, hotels and other visitor-oriented businesses. For example, in Petersburg, a 2012 report by the Petersburg Progress-Index noted that more than 175,000 visitors to Petersburg National Battlefield spent nearly \$8.7 million in 2010. The region saw an explosion in visitation during the Civil War sesquicentennial commemoration, with more than 200,000 tourists journeying to Petersburg for the anniversary in 2014.

Legislation to expand these boundaries has broad local support. Resolutions from Dinwiddie County, Prince George County, the City of Hopewell, the Crater Area Planning Commission and Petersburg Area Regional Tourism have expressed approval for this legislation. The Civil War Trust has preserved hundreds of acres of land at six of the twelve battlefields that would be included in the boundary expansion. In the long term, we hope to transfer this property to the NPS, to provide tourists with a comprehensive and seamless visitor experience.

#### **Conclusion**

The battles of the Petersburg Campaign are essentially the penultimate chapter of the American Civil War. The 10-month siege ultimately stretched the Confederate lines to the breaking point, leading to a decisive Union victory and the surrender of the South's most effective army at Appomattox Courthouse. These battlefields, like many other battlefields throughout the country, are threatened by rapid growth and development. This legislation would enable NPS, working with private sector groups like the Civil War Trust, to further preserve these irreplaceable battlefields and shrines to American heroism.

I sincerely hope this subcommittee will consider supporting this bill. We look forward to working closely with you as we continue our important work to preserve America's battlefield lands. Thank you for the opportunity to write to you in support of this legislation.

**Statement of Jim Lighthizer  
President, Civil War Trust**

**Before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
United States Senate  
Subcommittee on National Parks Legislative Hearing on 24 bills  
March 17, 2016**

**Introduction**

On behalf of the Civil War Trust, I am writing in strong support of S.1943, to modify the boundary of the Shiloh National Military Park, and for other purposes. The Civil War Trust has protected more than 42,000 acres of critically important battlefield land across the country, including 3,307 acres in Tennessee. Additionally, we have preserved more than 700 acres of land associated with the Siege of Corinth, Mississippi – a unit of Shiloh National Military Park.

This legislation proposes to expand the boundaries of Shiloh National Military Park to include 2,284 acres of historically significant battlefield land at the Davis Bridge, Russell House and Fallen Timbers Battlefields. It also establishes Parker's Crossroads Battlefield as an affiliated area of the National Park Service (NPS). This legislation does not transfer ownership of any land to the NPS; rather, it provides the NPS with the authority to acquire land, on a willing seller basis, or via donation within the boundary expansion area. This expansion will bring in four battlefields associated with the Battle of Shiloh and the Siege of Corinth, further preserving the historic resources and enhancing the visitor experience at these places.

**The Battle of Shiloh and the Siege of Corinth**

On the morning of April 6, 1862, the Confederate Army launched a surprise attack on the Union Army under General Ulysses S. Grant at Pittsburg Landing along the Tennessee River. After some of the most intense fighting yet seen in the war, the Confederates pinned the Union Army against the river by nightfall. After the arrival of reinforcements that evening, the Union launched a counterattack on April 7, fully reversing the Confederate gains of the previous day. In the end, the two-day Battle of Shiloh produced more than 23,000 casualties – the bloodiest battle of the war to that point.

Following Shiloh, the Union Army advanced toward the vital city of Corinth, Mississippi, repulsing Confederate forces along the way. The Federals laid siege to the city, which fell after a protracted struggle on May 30, 1862. Attempts by the South in October to retake the city failed, allowing the Union Army to use Corinth as its base of operations for the Vicksburg Campaign, which ultimately divided the Confederacy in two along the Mississippi River. The battlefields of Davis Bridge, Russell House, Fallen Timbers and Parker's Crossroads all played a role in Shiloh and Corinth campaigns of 1862.

**Preservation Efforts at Shiloh**

The establishment of Shiloh National Military Park in 1894 was the first major step in preserving the battlefield land associated with the fighting at Shiloh. Since then, preservation partners — together with the state and local communities — have worked hand-in-hand to protect nearly 4,000 acres of land, including Shiloh National Cemetery.

To date, the Civil War Trust has preserved more than 2,300 acres at Shiloh and nearby battlefields, hallowed ground that could be lost to development if not protected. This total includes 858 acres at Davis Bridge and 350 acres at Parker's Crossroads. Nearly 750 acres at Davis Bridge have been transferred to the State of Tennessee and are preserved as part of Big Hill Pond State Park. In the long term, the Trust and the State of Tennessee hope to transfer these properties to the NPS, to provide tourists with a seamless visitor experience. These battlefields were recognized as nationally significant historic resources in a Congressionally authorized study of our country's Civil War battlefields conducted by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission.

#### **Living Monuments and Outdoor Classrooms**

America's battlefields, like those associated with the Shiloh and Corinth Campaigns, are irreplaceable parts of our shared national heritage. When preserved, these battlefields serve as outdoor classrooms to educate current and future generations about the defining moment in our country's history. They are living monuments, not just to the men in blue and gray who fought and sacrificed there, but to all who have proudly worn our nation's uniform.

Preserved battlefields are also economic drivers for communities, generating tourism dollars that are extremely important to state and local economies. Battlefield visitors, who typically travel in groups and as part of families, tend to stay longer and spend more than other types of tourists.

#### **Conclusion**

The battles of the Shiloh and Corinth campaigns set the stage for the long and bloody struggle that was to come. By expanding the boundary of Shiloh National Military Park to include these four additional battlefields, the NPS will be able to better tell the story of the soldiers who fought and died here so that the United States could become the nation it is today. By supporting this legislation, you honor the memory of the men who fought here, and allow their legacies to live on to inspire generations to come.

I sincerely hope this subcommittee will consider supporting this bill. We look forward to working closely with you as we continue our important work to preserve America's battlefield lands. Thank you for the opportunity to write to you in support of this important legislation.

THE  
CONSERVATION FUND

1655 North Fort Myer Drive  
Suite 1300  
Arlington, VA 22209-3199

March 30, 2016

The Honorable Bill Cassidy  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Energy & Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Energy & Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cassidy and Ranking Member Heinrich:

On behalf of The Conservation Fund, thank you for holding a hearing on March 17, 2016 to consider S. 718, and I request that this letter be included in the hearing record. I am writing to express strong support for S. 718, to modify the boundary of Petersburg National Battlefield in the Commonwealth of Virginia. We appreciate the leadership of Senator Warner and Senator Kaine, along with Representative Randy Forbes and Representative Bobby Scott, to adjust the boundary of the Petersburg National Battlefield, to conserve important historic lands, to help tell the story of this remarkable battle to the public, and for the benefit of future generations.

The 292-day siege of Petersburg took its toll on soldiers and civilians alike as 70,000 combatants became casualties while some civilians were driven from their homes. Almost a quarter of the entire Civil War was fought across 176 square miles around the city of Petersburg as Generals Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee came head-to-head. The outcome of the longest siege in American history proved pivotal as well and set the stage for the surrender of the Confederacy only seven days after the fall of Petersburg. Unfortunately, the physical resources and the visitor experience at these historic lands are under threat due to incompatible residential, commercial and industrial development along Petersburg National Battlefield's borders. To address these threats, the National Park Service (NPS) solicited public input and completed a Final General Management Plan in 2005 to guide future management of the park.

If enacted, S. 718 and H.R. 1621, companion legislation introduced by Reps. Forbes and Scott, would further the Petersburg National Battlefield General Management Plan by providing NPS with the authority to complete the 7,238-acre boundary adjustment and acquire from willing sellers the land and interest in lands within the modified boundary. We support the legislative provision allowing NPS to complete the land acquisitions by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, exchange, or transfer. The bill would also authorize the Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of the Army to move forward with a small exchange of land (approximately 1.17 acres/each) between the Petersburg National Battlefield and the Fort Lee Military Reservation adjacent to the Park.

We urge the Committee to amend S. 718 to increase the acreage ceiling at the City Point unit from 21 acres to 25 acres, as was recommended by NPS. This amendment would conform with language in H.R. 1621 to allow NPS to acquire land adjacent to the park property at the City Point unit. This land, which was pre-acquired from a willing seller by The Conservation fund at the request of NPS, is included in the 7,238-acre boundary adjustment in this bill. In the absence of this technical amendment, NPS will not be able to acquire these priority lands around the City Point unit.

We wish to commend Senator Warner and Senator Kaine for their outstanding leadership to help preserve the unprotected hallowed ground on the battlefields in the Petersburg area by introducing this legislation to modify the boundary of the Petersburg National Battlefield. We urge the Subcommittee and the full-

Committee to approve S. 718, with the recommended amendment, this Congress. In addition to honoring those brave men who fought and died on these fields, this legislation would increase heritage tourism in Virginia and would enable Americans to learn more about Petersburg's critical role in the final year of the Civil War.

Thank you for your leadership on this important initiative.

Sincerely,



Lawrence A. Selzer  
President & CEO

cc: The Honorable Mark Warner, U.S. Senator  
The Honorable Tim Kaine, U.S. Senator  
The Honorable Randy Forbes, U.S. Representative  
The Honorable Bobby Scott, U.S. Representative

Testimony for the Record  
Senator Chris Coons

Before the  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Subcommittee on National Parks

**Hearing on National Parks Legislation**

May 11, 2016

Thank you, Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Cantwell, and Members of the committee for allowing me to provide input on a bill to establish a National Emergency Medical Services Memorial (S. 2628) that was included in the hearing on national parks legislation on March 17, 2016. I write in strong support of this bill, which I introduced in the Senate earlier this year.

This legislation would authorize the National Emergency Medical Services Foundation to establish a public memorial in the District of Columbia to commemorate the commitment and service represented by the men and women of emergency medical services (EMS).

I served in elected office in New Castle County, DE from 2001 until 2010. During these years, I was frequently impressed by the skill, dedication, and selflessness of the many EMS personnel who served our county. Not only do EMS personnel save the lives of their fellow citizens, the profession also provides an excellent career path for service-minded individuals seeking a meaningful vocation. While this selfless and noble career path is empowering for individuals and life-saving in our communities, it is also dangerous.

Each year, across the nation, the 850,000 EMS first responders answer more than 30,000,000 calls to serve 22,000,000 patients in need of life saving care and comfort—at a moment's notice and without reservation. Many of these citizens around the country are alive today because of this selfless commitment. With little regard for their own safety and in the face of all hazards, the men and women of EMS respond across the spectrum of incidents: from a single person's medical emergency to naturally occurring or man-made disasters, including terrorist attacks that threaten the entire nation. When I served as the New Castle County Executive, it was important to ensure that our EMS personnel were well trained, responsive professionals. This was not only about delivery of high quality government services, but a matter of life and death for community members. This commitment to others, at a moment's notice and despite risk, exemplifies the finest traditions of American spirit. Thus, a memorial commemorating the commitment and service of EMS professionals is well deserved.

Further, this commemorative work is well deserved because when a service member is tragically killed while on duty, the families, friends, and colleagues they leave behind have no nationally recognized location to acknowledge their loved one and grieve. While fallen members may be recognized by local ceremonies and laid to rest in their hometown cemeteries, EMS members also deserve a nationally recognized location to commemorate the values that bind service members together, both living and deceased. It should be noted that unlike the equally important and noble protective forces of military personnel, law enforcement officers, or firefighters, emergency medical services still have no such commemorative location or memorial.

This memorial proposal was first brought to my attention by New Castle County EMS Chief Larry Tan and Paramedic Senior Sergeant Kenneth Dunn Sr., a New Castle County paramedic for 34 years who also served as a member of the Delaware EMS Oversight Council. At that time, H.R. 2274, a nearly identical companion bill, had already been introduced in the House of Representatives. H.R. 2274 was reviewed by the National Capital Memorial Advisory Committee on September 14, 2015, resulting in a letter of support from the committee later in the year. It should be noted that this bill would authorize a memorial that

commemorates the commitment and service represented by emergency medical services personnel rather than the personnel themselves in accordance with the Commemorative Works Act. The Commemorative Works Act prevents a memorial to EMS professionals as a group because the memorialization of members of a group may not be authorized until after the 25th anniversary of the death of the last surviving member. This follows a precedent set for such commemoration by the National Peace Corps Memorial, which Congress authorized in 2014.

In closing, I would like to thank you again for your interest in the legislation. Congress has often recognized the heroic work of our military, police, and firefighting professionals. The men and women of EMS have also stepped up to assist their communities. Their commitment and service deserves similar recognition, which the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial would provide.



[www.corpsnetwork.org](http://www.corpsnetwork.org)

March 17, 2016

The Honorable Bill Cassidy  
Chairman  
Senate Subcommittee on National Parks  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich  
Ranking Member  
Senate Subcommittee on National Parks  
303 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cassidy and Ranking Member Heinrich,

We write in strong support of S. 1993, the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) Act, introduced by Senator John McCain and Senator Michael Bennet, under consideration by your subcommittee. Thank you for your efforts in considering this legislation, and we applaud Sens. McCain and Bennet for their bipartisan efforts.

The 21CSC is a bold idea to put 100,000 youth and veterans to work protecting, restoring, and enhancing America's resources and great outdoors. Built on the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the 21CSC is designed to complete high quality, cost effective projects on public and tribal lands and waters across the nation while also help address land managers backlogged maintenance needs, enhancing recreation opportunities, and addressing wildfires and disaster recovery needs.

The 21CSC Act would put the idea into law by and ensure its effective operation by:

- Requiring that participating federal partners be limited to "using existing resources that have been appropriated or allocated," meaning there would be no cost;
- Prioritizing engagement of veterans and disadvantaged youth;
- Giving relevant federal agencies the ability to engage Corps to complete projects and encourage coordination to identify ways to leverage existing resources to expand the use of Corps to meet their missions.
- Developing standards and approval of 21CSC programs and projects, and supporting those efforts through private and donated funds;
- Establishing effectiveness and outcomes for 21CSC programs and participants such as career skills development and leveraging existing resource to maximize project completion in a cost-effective manner; and
- Requiring reporting by participating agencies and the GAO.

We're excited to not only have Sens. McCain and Bennet as supporters, but also 80 different national and regional corporations and organizations like KEEN, the Outdoor Industry Association, the Vet Voice Foundation, the American Recreation Coalition, and the National Parks Conservation Association. The 21CSC initiative has also been supported by other corporations like the North Face and American Eagle Outfitters.

Former Army General Stanley McChrystal and President Bush's Domestic Policy Advisor, John Bridgeland, are key supporters of 21CSC. We're privileged to also have the support of the past four most recent Secretaries of the Interior – two Republicans and two Democrats – along with



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current Secretary Sally Jewell including 21CSC as a key pillar of her Youth and Engaging the Next Generation Initiative.

By partnering with Corps, and with an expansion through 21CSC, federal land management agencies achieve much more with their limited budgets. Corps have utilized over \$150 million in project funding from DOI and USDA land management agencies over the past three years and turned that into millions more in matched funds and service projects, with the added benefit of engaging youth and veterans in meaningful hands-on work experiences outdoors.

In 2015 alone, our Corps around the country have: restored 567,000 acres of habitat; removed 365,000 acres of invasives; reduced 32,000 acres of fire fuel; responded to 500 wildfire needs; built and maintained 11,000 miles of multi-use trails; maintained and improved 16,000 parks and recreation spaces/facilities; and planted and maintained 2.8 million trees.

The Corps Network represents our country's 130+ Service and Conservation Corps. Descended from the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), today's Corps provide youth and veterans with the opportunity to advance their education, obtain critical career-readiness and job skills, and earn a stipend while they perform important conservation service projects on public lands. Collectively, our Corps enroll 24,000 Corpsmembers, engage an additional 100,000 volunteers, and complete thousands of service projects valuing hundreds of millions of dollars each year, with volunteer hours valued at nearly \$10 million each year.

Virtually all federal project partners (99.6%) say they would work with Corps again and an independent study commissioned by the National Park Service found an over 50 percent cost savings in using Corps on projects. In addition, the Corps Model has been rigorously tested and proven to be an effective youth development model and a recent study found that Corpsmembers gained significant career and leadership skills like teamwork, community engagement, critical thinking, and communication through their term of service.

As you can see, the 21CSC Act will enable Corps to engage thousands more youth and veterans in numerous capacities to help better manage and develop our natural resources and public infrastructure while providing high quality service and work experiences. We again thank you for your efforts in considering the 21CSC Act and look forward to working with you to see the bill signed into law.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Sprenkel  
President & CEO

Enclosure:



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### CORPS OF THE CORPS NETWORK

#### National & Regional Organizations:

American Conservation Experience  
AmeriCorps NCCC  
Conservation Legacy  
Greening Youth Foundation  
Public Allies  
Student Conservation Association (SCA)  
YouthBuild USA

#### ALASKA

Anchorage Park Foundation/YEP  
Student Conservation Association (Anchorage Office)

#### ARIZONA

American Conservation Experience  
Arizona Conservation Corps (Flagstaff, Tucson)  
*Work in State:* CCYC (UT); NYC (OR); RMYC (NM)

#### ARKANSAS

Cass Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center  
Ouachita Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center

#### CALIFORNIA

AmeriCorps NCCC (Pacific Region)  
California Conservation Corps  
California Association of Local Conservation Corps  
CivicoCorps  
Conservation Corps of Long Beach  
Conservation Corps North Bay  
Fresno EOC Local Conservation Corps  
Kern Service and Conservation Corps  
Los Angeles Conservation Corps  
Orange County Conservation Corps  
Reading Partners  
Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps  
San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps  
San Joaquin Regional Conservation Corps  
San Jose Conservation Corps & Charter School  
Sequoia Community Corps  
Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corps  
Student Conservation Association (Oakland)  
Urban Conservation Corps /S.C.A. Mtns Foundation  
Urban Corps of San Diego County  
*Work in State:* ACE (AZ); ACC (AZ); NCC (NV); NYC (OR)

#### COLORADO

AmeriCorps NCCC (Southwest Region)  
Collbran Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center  
Colorado Youth Corps Association  
Conservation Legacy (HQ)  
Environment for the Americas

#### COLORADO (Cont.)

Larimer County Conservation Corps  
Mile High Youth Corps  
Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (Steamboat Springs)  
Southwest Conservation Corps (Four Corners, Los Valles)  
Western Colorado Conservation Corps  
*Work in State:* CCYC (UT)

#### CONNECTICUT

Knox Parks Foundation -- Green Crew

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (HQ)  
DC Green Corps/Washington Parks & People  
Earth Conservation Corps  
Groundwork Anacostia  
MobilizeGreen  
Student Conservation Association (Capital Region)

#### FLORIDA

Community Training Works, Inc. / Young American CC  
Conservation Corps of the Forgotten Coast  
Greater Miami Service Corps

#### GEORGIA

Greening Youth Foundation (HQ)

#### HAWAII

KUPU/Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps

#### IDAHO

Centennial Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center  
SCA Idaho AmeriCorps  
Youth Employment Program - Idaho  
*Work in State:* MCC (MT); NCC (NV); NYC (OR); UCC (UT)

#### ILLINOIS

Greencorps Chicago  
Golconda Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center  
Peoria Corps  
Student Conservation Association (Chicago)  
Youth Conservation Corps, Inc.  
YouthBuild Lake County

#### IOWA

AmeriCorps NCCC (North Central Region)  
Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa (Ames)

#### KENTUCKY

Frenchburg Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center



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Great Onyx Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center  
Pine Knot Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center

#### LOUISIANA

Limitless Vistas, Inc.  
Louisiana Green Corps  
St. Bernard Project  
*Work in State: AYW (TX)*

#### MAINE

Maine Conservation Corps

#### MARYLAND

AmeriCorps NCCC (Southwest Region)  
Civic Works  
Maryland Conservation Corps  
Montgomery County Conservation Corps  
*Work in State: CCCWV (WV)*

#### MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts Corps (SCA)  
X-Cel Education

#### MICHIGAN

Michigan Civilian Conservation Corps  
Student Conservation Association (Detroit)  
SEEDS Youth Conservation Corps  
*Work in State: CCMI (MN), GLCCC (WI)*

#### MINNESOTA

Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa  
Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps

#### MISSISSIPPI

CLIMB Community Development Corporation

#### MISSOURI

AmeriCorps NCCC (Southern Region)  
AmeriCorps St. Louis Mingo Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center  
*Work in State: CCMI (MN)*

#### MONTANA

Anaconda Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center  
Montana Conservation Corps  
Trapper Creek Job Corps Civilian Conserv. Center

#### NEBRASKA

Pine Ridge Job Corps Civilian Conservation Corps

#### NEVADA

Nevada Conservation Corps (Great Basin Institute)  
*Work in State: ACC (AZ)*

#### NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire Corps (SCA)  
*Work in State: GMC (VT)*

#### NEW JERSEY

New Jersey Youth Corps of Atlantic Cape May  
New Jersey Youth Corps of Camden/The Work Group  
New Jersey Youth Corps of Elizabeth  
New Jersey Youth Corps of Jersey City  
New Jersey Youth Corps of Middlesex County  
New Jersey Youth Corps of Monmouth County  
New Jersey Youth Corps of Newark  
New Jersey Youth Corps of Paterson  
New Jersey Youth Corps of Phillipsburg  
New Jersey Youth Corps of Trenton  
New Jersey Youth Corps of Trenton Isles  
New Jersey Youth Corps of Vineland  
New York New Jersey Trail Conference  
Student Conservation Association (New Jersey)

#### NEW MEXICO

Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (Taos)  
Southwest Conservation Corps (Ancestral Lands)  
YouthWorks Santa Fe

#### NEW YORK

Adirondack Corps (SCA)  
Christodora, Inc.  
Green City Force  
Hudson Valley Corps (SCA)  
New York City Justice Corps – Bronx  
New York City Justice Corps – Brooklyn  
New York City Justice Corps – Harlem  
New York City Justice Corps – Queens

New York Restoration Project  
Onondaga Earth Corps  
Rural Health Service Corps  
Student Conservation Association (New York City)  
The Place/Headwaters Youth Conservation Corps  
The Service Collaborative of WNY, Inc.  
*Work in State: NYNJTC (NJ)*

#### NORTH CAROLINA

American Conservation Experience  
L.B. Johnson Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center  
Northwest Piedmont Service Corps  
Oconaluftee Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center  
Schenk Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center  
*Work in State: VYCC (VT)*

#### NORTH DAKOTA

*Work in State: CCMI (MN); MCC (MT)*



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#### OHIO

WSOS Community Action

#### OREGON

Angell Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center  
Heart of Oregon  
Northwest Youth Corps  
Timber Lake Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center  
Wolf Creek Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center

#### PENNSYLVANIA

PowerCorpsPHL  
Student Conservation Association (Pittsburg/Philadelphia)

#### SOUTH CAROLINA

The Sustainability Institute/Energy Conservation Corps

#### SOUTH DAKOTA

Boxelder Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center  
*Work in State:* CCMI (MN)

#### TENNESSEE

Jacobs Creek Job Corps Civilian Conserv. Center  
Knox County CAC AmeriCorps  
Southeast Youth Corps

#### TEXAS

American YouthWorks, incl. Texas Conservation Corps  
El Ranchito  
Student Conservation Association (Houston)  
*Work in State:* Southwest Conservation Corps

#### UTAH

American Conservation Experience  
Canyon Country Youth Corps  
Intergovernmental Internship Cooperative  
Utah Conservation Corps  
Weber Basin Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center  
*Work in State:* ACC (AZ)

#### VERMONT

Green Mountain Club  
Vermont Youth Conservation Corps

#### VIRGINIA

Flatwoods Job Corps Civilian Conservation Corps  
SCA (Student Conservation Association) (HQ)  
Virginia Service and Conservation Corps  
Virginia State Parks Youth Conservation Corps

#### WASHINGTON

Columbia Basin Job Corps Civilian Conserv. Center Curlew Job  
Corps Civilian Conservation Center EarthCorps  
Fort Simcoe Job Corps Conservation Center  
Mt. Adams Institute  
Student Conservation Association (Seattle)  
Washington Conservation Corps  
*Work in State:* NYC (OR)

#### WEST VIRGINIA

Citizens Conservation Corps  
Harpers Ferry Job Corps Civilian Conserv. Center

#### WISCONSIN

Blackwell Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center  
Fresh Start - ADVOCAP  
Fresh Start - Renewal Unlimited, Inc.  
Great Lakes Community Conservation Corps  
Milwaukee Community Service Corps  
Operation Fresh Start  
Student Conservation Association (Milwaukee)  
WisCorps / Wisconsin Conservation Corps  
*Work in State:* CCMI (MN)

#### WYOMING

Wyoming Conservation Corps  
*Work in State:* RMYC (CO); MCC (MT); UCC (UT)

**Statement for the Record  
U.S. Senator Mike Enzi  
Before the Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
March 17, 2016**

Chairman Cassidy and Ranking Member Heinrich, thank you for including S. 2039, a bill to designate the mountain at Devils Tower National Monument as Devils Tower, at this hearing on pending National Parks legislation.

Devils Tower National Monument is known by many peoples and cultures under different names. This is evidenced by U.S. Geological Survey data which suggests there are nearly one hundred known aliases for the mountain at Devils Tower.

It is important to be respectful of those who may disagree, however, as the nation's first National Monument, it's also important to recognize Devils Tower's official and most known name to avoid a conflicting, duplicative, and ambiguous geographic designation. After a lengthy public comment period concluded in 2015, it is clear there is strong public support to

preserve the Devils Tower National Monument designation. The Crook County, Wyoming Commissioners solicited public comments for five months in 2015 on proposals to change the Devils Tower name. After receiving almost 1,000 responses, that process revealed that ninety-two percent of respondents support the existing Devils Tower designation. I ask that the attached letter from the Crook County Commission be included in the record.

There are a variety of important considerations that go into changing the name of Devils Tower National Monument. First, there is consistency—making sure the names of the physical feature, geographic location, and National Monument all match is an express policy goal for the U.S. Board of Geographic names. This bill, S. 2039 would address that by making sure the name is recognized similarly for all three.

There is also concern about the cost and confusion associated with any proposed name change. For example, the

Wyoming Office of Tourism spends millions in paid media advertising each year promoting the iconic destinations of Wyoming's great outdoors such as National Parks and National Monuments, including, Devils Tower National Monument.

Finally, there is the concern about duplication. A proposed name made in the petition process already has several known and recognized designations in Northeastern Wyoming and Montana. As America's first national monument, it is well known as Devils Tower and the proposed name change would not only affect the notoriety of the formation, and its opportunity to educate travelers about the mountain, but confuse the national monument with nearby geographic locations with the same name in the Black Hills National Forest.

Thank you again for holding this hearing.

## CROOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

P.O. Box 37 • 309 Cleveland Street • Sundance, WY 82729  
307-283-1323 • Fax: 307-283-3038  
lindaf@crookcounty.wy.gov • www.crookcounty.wy.gov



September 11, 2015

In 1868, the Wyoming Territory was created. In 1885, Crook County was created. In 1890, the Territory of Wyoming obtained statehood. In 1906, the first national monument, Devils Tower, was established. The United States was the first country in the world to set aside its' most significant places as national park units so they could be enjoyed by all.<sup>1</sup>

Over the centuries, many people have passed through or have inhabited the region now known as Crook County. The many Native American tribes who were in the area called the summit different names over time. By establishing the summit and the surrounding grounds as Devils Tower National Monument, the decision was made as to its official name.

The Crook County Commission would like to submit comments from the public it began to solicit since March 2015. A survey was developed and was inserted in the local newspapers, put on Crook County's website and each Commissioner hand delivered comment sheets throughout the county to the area businesses and town halls. We received comments from within the County and from around the world. As of August 3, 2015, we have received 954 comments about the summit: 34 approve the name change and 886 oppose the name change. For changing the name of the settlement called Devils Tower, we received 953 comments: 37 for the name change and 855 against it.

Crook County citizens believe the Tower is special. There is evidence that organized gatherings have taken place at the Tower since the first recorded climb of the Tower July 4, 1893. Citizens urged State and Federal officials to recognize the importance of this landmark and pressed for improved roads to the Tower in the early 1900's.<sup>2</sup> Since then, the Tower has been the site of numerous weddings, reunions, picnics, school outings and other important life events. Always, the Tower has been referred to with reverence. It is always called "Devils Tower" or "the Tower". We are

<sup>1</sup> Devils Tower National Monument press release Aug 2015 "Celebrating 99 years of National Parks and Monuments"

<sup>2</sup> "Pioneers of Crook County" published 1981 Crook County Historical Society. Copyright 1981, Crook County Historical Society, Sundance, WY. Published by State Publishing Co. 303 East Sioux, Pierre, SD.

not aware of any pet name or slang references used by local citizens. One definition of the word, "sacred", in Webster's Dictionary means "worthy of respect". By that definition, Devils Tower is sacred.

If the name is changed to "Bear Lodge", it will diminish the uniqueness of the site. This special place deserves more than a generic name. There is already the Bear Lodge Mountains east of the Monument. There is a rare earths mine being built in the Bear Lodge Mountains called the Bear Lodge Project. There is Bear Butte in Meade County, SD which is reportedly a sacred site to some Native Americans. By having so many places with "Bear" already in its name, it creates confusion for the over 400,000 annual visitors who come specifically to northeast Wyoming to see Devils Tower.<sup>3</sup>

Records show the name Devils Tower has existed officially for over 130 years. In the Bureau of Land Management Cadastral Survey Land Plats dated August 24, 1883, it is indicated that the summit was named Devils Tower. This is based upon field notes from 1881 and 1882. Those field notes dated July 23, 1883 state "A prominent land mark is a high peak in Section 7 called Devils Tower".<sup>4</sup>

Today is not the time to debate whether the site is sacred to some tribes or not. Anecdotal evidence exists that some tribes did avoid the area due to the "bad gods". Please see some of the comments submitted. For example, the Campstool Ranch was established by Lady Grace Esme MacKenzie in 1881. "The location of the ranch near the base of Devils Tower was chosen not due to its scenery but because the Native Americans were scared of it and would not go near it". This was in 1881.<sup>5</sup> The Battle of the Little Bighorn was June 1876 and the Indian Wars continued until 1918.<sup>6</sup>

We do not believe that all elders, leaders and individual tribal members find the name of the summit highly offensive, insulting, etc., as stated in the petition. There is an organization called Devils Tower Sacred to Many People whose mailing address is Devils Tower, Wyoming which owns land near the Tower. This federally recognized non-profit exists to benefit the Native Americans who live on reservations. The international monetary supports this organization receives show many people recognize the name Devils Tower. The Native artists who sell their wares to the organization recognize the name also and support their efforts.

We do not believe the summit was given its name purposely due to white people finding cultural and faith traditions practiced by Native Americans "evil". It was the name commonly used by the people who lived in the area. That is why one name was

<sup>3</sup> Annual visitation numbers at DTNM: 2012-416,994; 2013- 417,326; 2014-440,875. E-mail from Supt. Tim Reid, DTNM, to Crook County Commission, dated 9/1/15, per their request.

<sup>4</sup> The BLM Cadastral Survey Land Plats at [www.blm.gov/cadasral/countyplats/crook/t53nr65w.pdf](http://www.blm.gov/cadasral/countyplats/crook/t53nr65w.pdf). Page 4 of pdf. Also see Field Notes Subdivision at Volume 188, pages 426-427 dated 7-23-1883.

<sup>5</sup> "Barns of Crook County" display at Crook County Museum, 8/2015.

<sup>6</sup> [www.warpaths2peacepipes.com](http://www.warpaths2peacepipes.com) "Indian Wars and Battles".

chosen for the summit and for the National Monument. Many tribes have their own historic name for the Tower. The United States Board on Geographic Names Case Brief cites approximately 94 different published names for Devils Tower. We do not believe that over twenty tribes who have potential cultural affiliation with the Tower have reached a consensus to support the proposal of one name for the summit. We believe each tribe will continue to use their traditional name for the Tower and Wyoming natives will do the same. Devils Tower has always been open to anyone to use as a respectful place to carry on their own traditions and we expect it to remain that way. The Tower can be shared by all.

The Crook County Commission questions what significant or historic benefit will be advanced by changing the name of the summit located at Devils Tower National Monument? Will the name change proposed by the petitioners benefit many, just a few, or will it cause more dissension? Therefore: We request the Wyoming Board on Geographic Names and the United States Board on Geographic Names retain the name of the summit as Devils Tower.

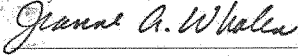
We question why the settlement of Devils Tower is being petitioned for change. There is a United States Post Office there and we have not received a recommendation from the USPS for a name change. Records show that particular Post Office has been in existence since 1925.<sup>7</sup> Reading some of the comments we received from our Wyoming natives, we ask "How can people who do not even live in the area propose a name change to a populated place?" Numerous comments from the people who have Devils Tower as their mailing address mention the unnecessary distress of changing the name of their business and changing their address on passports, official documents and just receiving mail and packages.

Crook County received 855 comments to retain the name of the settlement of Devils Tower. Again we ask: what significant or historic benefit will be advanced by changing the name of the settlement? A name change should be proposed by the citizens it would most affect. Therefore, we request the name of the settlement be retained as Devils Tower, Wyoming.

Sincerely,



Kelly B. Dennis, Chairman



Jeanne A. Whalen, Vice-Chairwoman



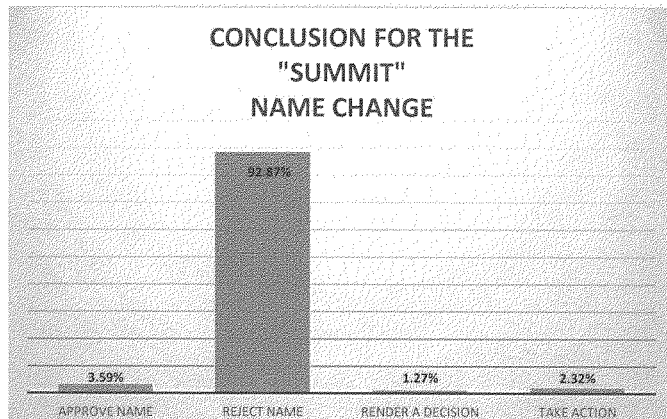
Steve J. Stahla, Member

<sup>7</sup> [www.postalhistory.com](http://www.postalhistory.com) "A Checklist of WYO Post Offices" Jim Forte Postal History.

## PROPOSED GEOGRAPHIC NAME CHANGE FROM DEVILS TOWER TO BEARLODGE

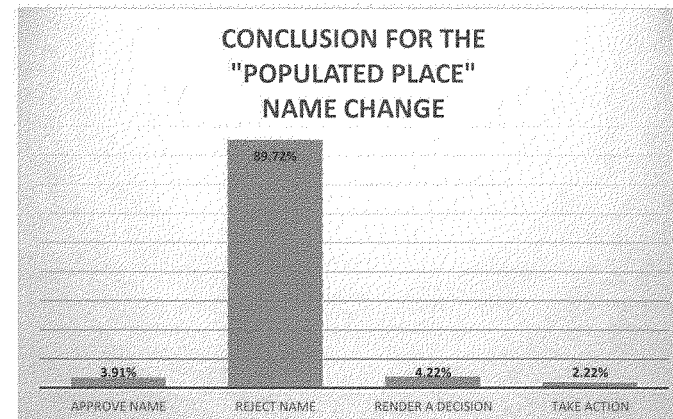
FOR THE "SUMMIT" TO BECOME BEARLODGE

APPROVE NAME	REJECT NAME	RENDER A DECISION	TAKE ACTION
34	886	12	22



FOR THE "POPULATED PLACE" TO BECOME BEARLODGE

APPROVE NAME	REJECT NAME	RENDER A DECISION	TAKE ACTION
37	855	40	21



**APPROVAL COMMENTS: (For both the Tower and the Populated area)**

- \* Would be nice to honor Native Americans.
- \* The land around what is known as "Devils Tower" has been used by the Native Americans for generations. If they feel that the name offends them then we should respect their wishes as the first people to populate the area. We are only recent visitors.
- \* I think the name should respect the tradition of Native Americans. To them it was the "Bear Lodge".
- \* I think the name change would be great to honor the Native American legacy.
- \* Changes would have no economic impact on me, my family, or friends. Signage has to eventually be changed anyway.  
And new signs often increase awareness in a business, community or feature.

**APPROVAL COMMENTS: (For the "Summit")**

- \* I believe that this name change would reflect sensitivity to the Native American cultures which is very often neglected.
- \* We took their land violating the 1868 treaty. The least we can do is let them have the name back.
- \* It makes sense to return to a more historically correct name.

**APPROVAL COMMENTS: (For the "Populated Place")**

- \* The two should be together. If the "Tower" becomes the "Bearlodge" then the surrounding structure names should also include the words.
- \* Have some historical accuracy, but leave the "Tower" as it is.

**RENDER A DECISION COMMENTS: (For the "Populated Place")**

- \* The individual residents living within this populated area should have more of a weighted input into this name change.
- \* The folks who live there can decide, but I see no point in two names.
- \* We feel that the people who are most affected (business owners and residents of the immediate area) should have their opinions considered first and foremost.

**TAKE ACTION COMMENTS:**

- \* The Native American Indians have several names for "Devils Tower". If "Bearlodge" is the final name, add it in parenthesis after Devils Tower, with an explanation in future printed material and on signage.
- \* Make no change unless an overwhelming majority of commenter's request it.
- \* Everyone here calls it "The Tower" why not shorten it to that name as well. It will not be so much of a change for businesses. But it would be confusing to call it "Bearlodge" since that's what we call the Pass.
- \* If you cannot accept "Devils Tower" find another name. Bearlodge is used to frequently for places over the county.
- \* Consult the residents of Devils Tower regarding any name change, not an outside group.  
And then distribute them in business in each of towns in crook county.  
every county office so people see it. Plus households should get more than one copy.

**REJECTION COMMENTS: (For the "Summit and/or the "Populated Place".)**

- \* Keep the name, just recognize that us Native Americans called it Bearlodge.
- \* It will be very costly. Many places will have to change the name.

- \*We feel that it would be a poor use of taxpayer money given the sign changes and map updates that would be required.
- \*While it is important to recognize the role the Tower plays in multiple cultures, its current name is recognized far and wide, both nationally and internationally.
- \*While I can appreciate the view of those who want the change, I feel it is totally unnecessary and inappropriate. After all, it is our nation's first National Monument, and was so designed as Devils Tower.
- \*How would it affect the people who live there? We would have to change our address, drivers license, credit cards, and any other legal papers.  
Personally I take pride in being from "Devils Tower", Wyoming.
- \*While I do realize there is a claim of importance to the Native American Indians, it is our backyard, our heritage, and part of our culture for over 100 years.
- \*A change would mean tons in new marketing cost; replace the historical significance of the name Devils Tower and take years to implement.
- \*Changing the name itself will not make it less or more "sacred" and doesn't change history.
- \*Devils Tower is recognized by many more than just area residents. Even if the original "translation" was flawed the name is now historical.
- \*Devils Tower is iconic, globally recognized designation. A name change would reduce visibility and international recognition.
- \*The Bearlodge has always been associated with the road out of Sundance to Warren peak. This change would be very confusing to people reading maps.
- \*Having lived 90 years (64 of them in Crook County), I have learned you can't change history. Misinterpreted or not it is still "History".  
We can note it, but a name change will not make it any different.
- \*We already have the Bearlodge Mountains. Naming Devils Tower Bearlodge would confuse people.
- \*Do you understand all the economic ramifications? Advertising, name recognition, costs to change over 100 years worth of brochures, maps, etc...
- \*Renaming the tower "Bearlodge" makes it seem rather anonymous since it will be amongst the Bearlodge Mountains.
- \*I have lived here all of my life and consider Devils Tower as a part of my heritage. It is the First National Monument of the United States.  
How can we change history?
- \*It was called Devils Tower before Teddy Roosevelt named it a National Monument. It and Yellowstone are the two most known places in Wyoming for the tourist trade.
- \*Any geographic name has roots in the past. The questions to be asked are how far into the past should we look and what matters most now.
- \*I would be concerned about the confusion for emergency personnel in determining whether the emergency is in the Bearlodge Mountains or at the "The Tower".
- \*It is my understanding that over 20 affiliated tribes to Devils Tower call the landmark names other than Bearlodge. Changing the name would open the way to calls for other name changes in the future.
- \*Every year for the last 10 years or so we (Abate Club) have had a memorial run and ride to the Tower. All of the Fallen Bothers and Sisters are remembered at this time and shirts with names and a Flag with names are used. It would be a shame to loose all these names because of a Tower name change.

We feel that these two letter sum up the feelings of the people of Crook County.

**Letter 1:** I have read through most of the reasoning for the name change and find It quite amazing that we would in this time, when we have wars all around the globe, hunger in many countries, people in our own country unemployed, some homeless and also hungry. Troops away from their families, their families struggling without their loved one, single moms working to be both mom and dad to their children, that we would after 109 years even worry about a rock that was named whether correctly or not.

If the various American Indians are strong in their faith, beliefs, and customs as I am sure they are, this name should mean very little to them. They hold the truth in their heart regardless of a name that was given to a rock years ago. I have seen their prayer clothes, small rocks and it is inspiring to me to know that this place that we all enjoy holds such a deep spiritual meaning for them and that we share in that when we slowly walk the path of their prayer. I have NEVER associated their strong faith and culture with the actual name of the Tower.

So in that vein, can we please focus on the more important things in my first paragraph instead of a rock which was named whether appropriately or not.

I write this on Memorial day weekend and while in church we heard that more than a million of our soldiers have died in wars in this county, isn't keeping this wonderful County Free far more important than the name change of a massive rock? What about changing our focus from the differences we have in this country to a focus of what we do agree on... a wonderful free country, kept that way by men willing to give all. When will we all become that one Nation once again?

**Letter 2:** Since the idea better called 'request' has come up again after quite a few years to change the name of 'Devils Tower' I thought I would give my thoughts 'again' on the subject just to let people know that Devils Tower is very special and rather sacred to more than one culture. These are much the same words I voiced in the last go around of the name changing.

I am a native of Crook County, and have spent my entire life in Crook County. My father before me, Harold Wells was born here well 100 years ago. His father before him had homesteaded just a little south east of Devils Tower and my Father was raised in the shadow of the Tower. He told us many stories of his childhood days playing on the "Big Rock" and how he would be cautioned by his Mother when he was sent to get the cows that he didn't have time to climb around on the "Big Rock" that day.

The Devils Tower played a big part in the lives of our family and extended family as it was the place where we went when relatives and friends came from afar to have a Family Reunion. We picnicked in winter or summer, a tradition I carried on with my own children and we went several times a year. However we witnessed many changes over the years and the changing of campground officials made it a little difficult for our large camping group sometimes. We persevered though and always went back.

One story from my Father. As young man he broke horses for the Army at Fort Keough in Montana. He made friends with a young American Indian. My father admired him as he had acquired a good education and spoke fluent English. Father invited him home to visit his parents at their homestead near Devils Tower, of course this included a planned ride over to the 'Big Rock'. His friend declined and told my Father the place was 'taboo'. He didn't consider it sacred and he didn't want to go anywhere near it.

I know the American Indian has not been treated right but I also know that you can't go back and change history. All Native Americans, both Indian and white have made a lot of mistakes but you can't make amends by spending a lot of money on a silly name change. This money could better be used for the betterment of both cultures.

I grew up knowing all these names for this landmark and it hasn't had any effect on my love and respect of this place. Every time I visit this place I stand in awe of it and I don't know anyone who could look upon this massive wonder and not feel spiritual. Go walk around this 'Big Rock', meditate in your own way, call this place by whatever name you want to and leave the trail clean and un-littered for those who want to make the trip in their own way and for their own reasons and think of it by one of the many names it is known by.

I am a Crook County, Wyoming Native American and have never lived anyplace else in my 80 plus years.

Senator Jeff Flake  
Statement for the Record  
Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks  
Hearing on Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act  
March 17, 2016

I am proud to support and cosponsor the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act of 2015 (S. 1982). This wall honors those who sacrificed so much in the Korean War with a Wall of Remembrance. The wall will list names of members of the Armed Forces of the United States that died during the war. It will also list the number of members of the Armed forces that were wounded in action, missing in action, and prisoners of war. Construction of the wall will be made possible from private funding.

I want to thank Senator Cardin and Senator Boozman for introducing this bipartisan legislation, which has 27 cosponsors in the Senate. The bill has the support of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation and the Korean War Veterans Association. This important piece of legislation honors veterans of the Korean War and authorizes the addition of a Wall of Remembrance to the existing Korean War Veterans Memorial.

I am proud to be a part of the legislation to authorize the construction of a Wall of Remembrance for Korean War Veterans. It is an important and noble way for America to honor those who died during our nation's "Forgotten War" and ensure they are no longer forgotten. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

## *Friends of East Rosebud*

Committed to Saving the Beauty of East Rosebud Creek for Future Generations

March 17<sup>th</sup> 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Chairwoman  
Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member  
Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Statement for the Record – Committee Hearing March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
S.1577: East Rosebud Wild & Scenic Rivers Act**

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell,

Senator Jon Tester (D-MT) and Senator Steve Daines (R-MT) introduced S.1577 on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Congressman Ryan Zinke (R-MT) introduced a companion bill in the House on the same day (H.R.2787). Similar bills had been introduced into the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress but expired without vote. Local residents of the East Rosebud area are fully in favor of the East Rosebud Wild and Scenic Rivers Act:

- East Rosebud Creek is a true National Treasure. It was ranked #1 in Billings Gazette's "Most dramatic natural feature" survey with trailheads leading to Yellowstone National Park via the Beaten Path and to Montana's highest point: Granite Peak.
- The area to be designated is located within Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness (13 miles) and surrounded by Wilderness (7 miles). No private land is included.
- East Rosebud is cherished by local residents and visitors from all over the country for its outstanding recreational, scenic, and geologic values. Recreational activities include picnicking, camping, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, paddling, wildlife watching, climbing, hunting and more.
- 1,050 Montana locals and an additional 750 summer home owners and visitors from 43 States signed a petition for Wild & Scenic preservation of the area.
- More than 90% of local landowners and all subdivision associations and ranches in 10 mile radius are backing this bill. For a 5 mile radius the approval rate goes up to 99%.
- The area generates millions of dollars each year for the local economy. Tourism accounts for over \$ 70 Million per year in Carbon County. That is why 35 local businesses are actively supporting a Wild and Scenic Designation too.
- The area has been found eligible for Wild & Scenic Designation by Custer National Forest in 1989. Less than 1% of Montana's rivers share this qualification.

Friends of East Rosebud is a local non-profit organization committed to save the beauty of East Rosebud Creek for future generations.

## ***Friends of East Rosebud***

Committed to Saving the Beauty of East Rosebud Creek for Future Generations

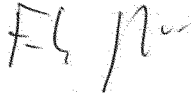
- The bill would be budget neutral since the area is already managed by Custer Gallatin National Forest as if it were Wild and Scenic. There are no land purchases necessary.
- East Rosebud Creek's water flow does not allow for profitable power generation. Two studies for small scale hydro power have been authorized by FERC in the past. Both projects were dropped by the applicants for economic reasons.
- The whole area is located on top of precambrian rock. There are no recoverable oil or other minerals according to a 1979 study of the Bureau of Mines and a 2008 study performed by US Geological Survey.
- The East Rosebud Wild and Scenic Rivers Act has truly bi-partisan support from all three Montana Congressional Delegates
- There is no known opposition

We are aware of the wording differences between Senate Bill (S.1577) and House Bill (H.R.2787). This is not an issue for Friends of East Rosebud. We will happily accept what Congress decides to be the final wording.

Sincerely,



Leslie Ziegler  
President



Vice President  
Frank Annighofer, PhD

Friends of East Rosebud, Inc., PO Box 95, Roscoe, MT 59071, (406) 328-7396, [info@saveeastrosebud.org](mailto:info@saveeastrosebud.org)

Friends of East Rosebud is a local non-profit organization committed to save the beauty of East Rosebud Creek for future generations.

STATEMENT OF SENATOR TIM Kaine  
A BILL TO REMOVE USE RESTRICTIONS ON CERTAIN LAND TRANSFERRED TO  
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Members of the Committee, thank you for holding this hearing and for considering S. 1329, an uncontroversial technical fix to a land ownership issue in Rockingham County, Virginia.

I am pleased to have sponsored this bipartisan bill with my friend and colleague in the House of Representatives, Congressman Bob Goodlatte. With his leadership and advocacy, the House version of this bill (H.R. 2288) has passed the full House on a unanimous vote.

This bill has a complex backstory, but it serves a simple purpose – to allow a small daycare facility in the Shenandoah Valley region of Virginia to undertake routine repairs and maintenance.

For some 25 years, the Plains Area Day Care Center in Broadway, Virginia, has served the children primarily of workers in local poultry processing plants. This facility sits on a 3-acre parcel that was once federal land before the National Park Service conveyed it to Rockingham County in 1989 under the Federal Lands to Parks Program. The County in turn leases this land to the Center for \$1 per year, with a contract that runs through the year 2027.

The Center is in need of repairs and maintenance, including a new roof. Since it does not have the cash on hand to pay for this, it requires a loan. However, it has had difficulty in securing financing for these activities because of the complex land ownership structure – federal land conveyed conditionally to a county and leased to a private company. The bank requires the land as collateral, which the Center cannot provide because it does not own the land outright.

This bill would specify that the 1989 land conveyance is transferred in fee simple, with no further use restrictions. The National Park Service had concerns with the initial version of this legislation, pertaining to its interest in ensuring that all Federal Lands to Parks Program land remain open space in perpetuity. In this case, there are no plans to develop any new open space on this site; the only plan is to fix the current building – a former Forest Service garage that has been on the site since before its transfer from federal ownership.

In response to the agency's concerns, Rep. Goodlatte and I and the agency agreed on an amendment to provide that only the current footprint of the building would be conveyed, while the larger public park would retain the current use restrictions. This amendment was adopted on the House side and is reflected in the version of H.R. 2288 that passed by roll call vote on November 30, 2015 (House Roll Call #644). When S. 1329 is marked up, I would ask that the same change be made.

This is a small modification that simply removes unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles and allows this daycare facility to continue providing the same service to the community that it has provided for the past 25 years. I am pleased to support this common-sense, bipartisan bill, and I appreciate the Committee's consideration.



## **“FREEDOM IS NOT FREE”**

Gen. R. G. Stilwell Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc. (KWVMFnd)  
 Dear Chairman A 501(C)(3), non-profit Foundation chartered in the District of Columbia  
 Col William E. Weber, USA-Ret., Chairman  
 10301 McKinstry Mill Road, New Windsor, MD 21776-7903  
 Ph: 410-775-7733 Fax: 410-775-7760 Toll Free: 1-888-KOR-A-WAR  
 Email: eagle187@hughes.net Website: [www.KoreanWarVetsMemorial.org](http://www.KoreanWarVetsMemorial.org)



10 March 2016

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 Col., USA-Ret

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The Honorable Bill Cassidy  
 Chairman  
 Subcommittee on National Parks  
 Committee on Energy and National  
 Resources

The Honorable Martin Heinrich  
 Ranking Member  
 Subcommittee on National Parks  
 Committee on Energy and National  
 Resources

### **RE: Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation Strong Support For S. 1982, the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act of 2016**

Dear Chairman Cassidy and Ranking Member Heinrich:

On behalf of our fellow Korean War Veterans and the families of the 36,574 American Soldiers who were Killed in Action or died in performance of their duty during the war, we urge your strong support and favorable consideration of S-1982. A similar Bill HR-1475, was passed by voice vote in the House on 24 Feb 16 having at the time 300 co-sponsors.

This Bill will finally ensure full compliance with the intent of Congress as stipulated in PL99-572, to wit: *"To authorize the erection of a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor members of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Korean War."* The language of this law was specific in intent namely, **"...to honor members of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Korean war, particularly those who were killed in action, are still listed as missing in action, or were held as prisoners of war"**.

The Bill also directed the President to appoint members to a Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory Board whose function was to select a site, design, raise funds, build and dedicate the Memorial. The original final design selected by the Board, and as presented to President George H. W. Bush, included a Wall of Names!

This design was rejected by the agencies such as National Capital Planning Commission, Fine Arts Commission, etc. The presumption for rejection presumably stemmed from the then heated controversy over the Vietnam Memorial in that survivors of that war felt the Memorial failed to honor their service.

Though this was ultimately resolved by the addition of the three soldier sculpture, it came too late in the negotiations of a final design for the Korean Memorial! In short, an aura of no more 'Wall of Names' on the Grand Mall prevailed and a subliminal means was chosen to acknowledge those who fell in battle by including a Pool of Remembrance in the Memorial.

The Honorable Bill Cassidy  
Chairman  
The Honorable Martin Heinrich  
Ranking Member

March 10, 2016  
Page 2

Sadly, the subliminal message is far too subtle and is not conveyed to the visitors to the Memorial. They are awed by the Memorial's magnificence as a 'work of art' but fail to see or comprehend the intended theme of the Memorial that 'FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!' They depart inspired by the artistry, but unaware of the intent of the Memorial!

Enactment of this proposed legislation, to authorize the addition of a glass Wall of Remembrance to the Memorial, will succeed in turning a magnificent work of art into the Memorial it was intended to be! It will enhance the Memorial and of glass will not impede full visual inclusion with the Mall as a whole or isolate the Memorial. It will instead add a subtle sense of closure while still fully integrating the Memorial to the Grand Mall as a whole!

Further, in company with the Pool of Remembrance the Wall of Remembrance will finally complete the full intent of the Memorial as was envisioned by the Congress when it enacted PL99-572!!

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

No longer, THE FORGOTTEN WAR or WARRIORS!

*William E. Weber*

William E. Weber  
Col. USA-Ret  
Chairman

cf: Sen. Cardin  
Board members (by Email)  
Sec'y, KWVMFnd



## ***“FREEDOM IS NOT FREE”***

Gen. R. G. Stilwell Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc. (KWVMFnd)  
A 501(c)(3), non-profit Foundation chartered in the District of Columbia  
COL William E. Weber, USA-Ret., Chairman  
10301 McKinstry Mill Road, New Windsor, MD 21776-7903  
Ph: 410-775-7733 Fax: 410-775-7760 Toll Free: 1-888-KOR-A-WAR  
Email: eugle187@hughes.net Website: [www.KoreanWarVetsMemorial.org](http://www.KoreanWarVetsMemorial.org)



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The Honorable Bill Cassidy  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
Committee on Energy and National  
Resources

18 March 2016  
The Honorable Martin Heinrich  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
Committee on Energy and National  
Resources

### **RE: Nation Park Service (NPS) objection to S-1982, the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act of 2016**

Dear Chairman Cassidy and Ranking Member Heinrich:

The NPS objection to S-1982 that it: (A) *alters the character of the Korean War Veterans Memorial*, and (B) *is inconsistent with the Commemorative Works Act*, is a bureaucratically specious argument that ignores fact.

S-1982 does not alter the character of the Memorial but instead completes and enhances such by providing a specific message as to why Freedom Is Not Free, the intended theme of the Memorial. Further, it complies with the directed intent of Congress when it enacted PL99-572, the authority for the Memorial which states, “.....to *honor those members of the United States Armed Forces who served in the Korean War, particularly those who were killed in action, are still missing in action, or were held as prisoners of war.*” This, the Wall of Remembrance will do!

The NPS opines that the Pool of Remembrance conveys that message in a subliminal sense. This is a fallacious argument as such is not conveyed to visitors! The implied message is far too subtle and there is nothing to relate the Pool to the sacrifice of those who fell in battle! The great majority of visitors do not even encircle the Pool as nothing attracts them to so do. Furthermore, the Pool is drained of water during the Winter months thus negating even the too subtle message!

Nowhere in our Nation is the extent of the ultimate sacrifice of our Soldiery in the Korean War fully presented! Neither the 36,574 who fell in battle nor the 103,284 of their comrades who were wounded in action are prominently acknowledged. The memorial to honor them, as presently configured, fails to appropriately convey the extent of their sacrifice in obedience to the credo that FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!

Memorials must and should reflect the will of the people not bureaucracy! HR-1475, the companion to S-1982, was co-sponsored by 309

bi-partisan members of the House. They did so because their constituents so requested such and were adamant that those who fell in battle in Korea be acknowledged in the Memorial intended to honor those who served! To mute and/or fail to place emphasis on the ultimate sacrifice—that of life itself—would be a travesty!

The inference by the NPS objection that adding the Wall of Remembrance constitutes creating a new Memorial is fallacious! Adding the Wall of Remembrance completes the Memorial as it Congress intended and is in keeping with precedents already set to the Commemorative Works Act (CMA)! Correcting errors of omission or design are within the purview of the Act! Adding the three sculptures to the Vietnam Memorial, although preceding enactment of CMA, would nonetheless have been done as an exception to the CMA! They enhanced the Memorial----did not create a new Memorial!

So too the proposed Wall of Remembrance. It will be of glass! It will serve to give a sense of closure to the Memorial, which it now lacks, without isolating and instead integrating it to the entirety of the Grand Mall. The names of the fallen on the Wall will be as if reflected on the green vistas of the Mall! Further, the Wall will ensure that visitors encircle the entirety of the Memorial and thus experience the full substance of the message the Memorial is intended to convey.

The Wall of Remembrance will ensure that what is now magnificent artistry exemplified by the line of sculptures and the Mural Wall becomes a true Memorial versus a work of art! The Wall of Remembrance will give substance to the intended theme of the Memorial that **FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!!**

**No longer The Forgotten War and Warriors!**

*William E. Weber*

William E. Weber  
Col. USA-Ret  
Chairman

## LECKY DESIGN STUDIO

March 11, 2016

The Honorable Bill Cassidy  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
Committee on Energy and National  
Resources

The Honorable Martin Heinrich  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
Committee on Energy and National  
Resources

RE: Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation Strong Support for S. 1982, the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act of 2016

Dear Chairman Cassidy and Ranking Member Heinrich:

On behalf of our Korean War veterans and the families of the 36,574 American Armed Services who were killed in action during that war, I ask for your support and consideration of S-1982. As you may be aware, a similar bill (HR-1475) was recently passed in the House on Feb. 24, 2016 with more than 300 co-sponsors.

Frequently referred to as "The Forgotten War", the American public is unaware of the enormous sacrifice made by our armed forces during that conflict. The proposed glass "Wall of Remembrance" will make the visitor to the memorial finally aware of our military's sacrifice.

I was the Architect of Record, working with Maya Lin, on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. I was the original Designer and Architect for the Korean War Veterans Memorial. The Korean War veterans have been asking for a wall of names for decades now. And initially both we and the Board were envisioning a granite wall with inscribed names, similar to the Vietnam Memorial. At the time, we were hesitant to replicate what we had so recently completed. But what is suggested in this legislation is a glass wall with the names etched into the glass. This will be a transparent wall, allowing full visibility into and out of the memorial proper. At night the names will seem to glow in the dusk as they will be illuminated from invisible, below grade lighting components.....very different from a granite wall.

Our initial design intent, instead of a wall of names, was to honor our fallen heroes with a "Pool of Remembrance" at the center of the plaza at the top of the hill of the existing memorial. It was an abstract attempt to provide a solemn location to honor the fallen. But, sadly, the pool is drained during the cold months, and its beauty, as well as its purpose, is stripped of its intent. Our proposed legislation (S-1982) will solve that problem and allow us to demonstrate the

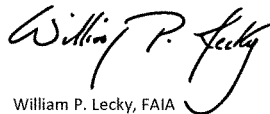
1448 Waggaman Circle, McLean, VA 22101 – (703) 734-1027

## LECKY DESIGN STUDIO

magnitude of the loss that our country suffered during that conflict. It will lend strength and purpose to the memorial's overall message that "FREEDOM IS NOT FREE."

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



William P. Lecky, FAIA  
Architect for the Korean War Veterans Memorial  
KWVM Foundation Board Member

cc: Senator Cardin  
KWVMF Board members

**Statement of Senator McCain on S. 1993**  
Senate Subcommittee on National Parks  
U.S. Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources  
March 17, 2016

Chairman Cassidy and Ranking Member Heinrich, I appreciate your holding today's hearing on S. 1993, The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) Act, legislation introduced by myself and Senator Bennet of Colorado. A companion measure will be introduced in the House of Representatives in the near future. This legislation would increase national service opportunities and put youth and veterans to work protecting, restoring, and enhancing the outdoors by leveraging existing resources and private funding.

As this subcommittee appreciates, we face a growing backlog of projects on our public lands and across our national parks. As of September 2015, the National Park Service was facing a deferred maintenance backlog totaling over \$11.9 billion, including more than \$580 million in deferred maintenance in Arizona alone. At the same time, each year the number of applicants to existing national service positions far exceeds the number of positions available. The 21CSC Act aims to meet these two needs by encouraging federal agencies responsible for resource conservation and the management of public lands to use national service corps to meet their missions. This bill aims to expand opportunities for national service-oriented corps members and would be done at no additional cost to the taxpayer. In fact, enlisting corps to do priority work on our public lands has often proven to be more cost-effective for federal agencies.

The arrangement I have described is something that is being done today with some success. For example, in my home state, The Arizona Conservation Corps are completing projects in areas critical to the state, including in trail construction and maintenance, fire mitigation, mining reclamation, invasive species management, and water conservation. This bill aims to build on this work, in Arizona and across the country, by providing the legislative authority necessary to ensure its continued success.

The 21CSC has been operating under an Executive initiative—President Obama's "America's Great Outdoors Initiative"—and a Memorandum of Understanding signed by participating federal agencies in 2012. According to that MOU, the agreement represented an interagency effort to support 21CSC non-federal partners by collaborating to increase work, training, and service opportunities on federal lands; match natural resource management needs with 21CSC opportunities; identify potential sources of funding; remove barriers and streamline processes for supporting 21CSC programs; and support pathways to careers.

Building on this work, this legislation would statutorily establish the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conservation Service Corps into law, ensuring that the beneficial aspects of the 21CSC continue and providing the authority needed to grow the number of participants in the 21CSC. The legislation would accomplish this by expanding the number of participating agencies who can engage civilian service corps. Under this bill, participating agencies and departments would include the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Transportation, Labor, Energy, Defense,

Veterans Affairs, and Commerce, and the EPA, Council on Environmental Quality, and Corporation for National and Community Service.

The bill would provide these agencies the authority to engage civilian service corps to complete pressing projects, allowing them to enter into cooperative agreements with 21CSC organizations and form public-private partnerships to support and carry out 21CSC projects. It would clarify that they have the authority to tap into and leverage existing resources to expand the use of conservation corps to meet their missions.

In addition to utilizing existing funds in a more cost-effective way, it is also worth noting that the 21CSC has received support from the private sector, with funding from corporations going to support the youth and veterans serving in corps on our public lands. I hope this legislation will encourage further private sector collaboration in expanding national service opportunities.

To ensure the activities encouraged by this bill are done in a cost-efficient manner and to avoid any duplication and inefficiency, it requires reporting to Congress by participating agencies and the GAO.

The bill also aims to increase participation by extending to corps participants the type of incentives available to other national service members, like those in the Peace Corps. Under this bill, corps members who meet the requirements laid-out in the legislation would be eligible for noncompetitive hiring status, allowing them to use the skills they have gained through service to join the 21<sup>st</sup> Century workforce, perhaps through careers that allow them to be stewards of our natural resources well into the future. In this way, the 21CSC provides benefits not only to its participants, but to all of us who hope to enjoy our nation's parks and resources for years to come.

The goal of putting hundreds of thousands of young Americans and returning veterans to work through national service to the great outdoors—the mission of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC)—is a worthy one and one I'm proud to be associated with. Thank you for holding this hearing and I look forward to working with the Committee and the Administration to advance this bill through the legislative process.



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*Swinomish Tribe*

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT  
**Fawn Sharp**  
*Quinault Indian Nation*

RECORDING SECRETARY  
**Aaron Payment**  
*South Sea Marine Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Michigan*

TREASURER  
**W. Ron Allen**  
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*Native Village of Tanacross*

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*Spirit Lake Nation*

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**Roger Rader**  
*Potawatomi Band of Potawatomi*

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*Shawnee Indian Nation*

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
**Jacqueline Pata**  
*Thaga*

## NCAI HEADQUARTERS

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## NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Bill Cassidy  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
U.S. Senate  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
U.S. Senate  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: NCAI OPPOSITION TO S. 2039, AND SUPPORT FOR CHANGING THE NAME OF "DEVIL'S TOWER" TO THE BEAR LODGE NATIONAL MONUMENT**

Dear Chairman Cassidy and Ranking Member Heinrich:

On behalf of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the oldest, largest, and most representative organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments, I write to express our opposition to S. 2039, *A bill to designate the mountain at the Devils Tower National Monument, Wyoming, as Devils Tower and for other purposes*. During NCAI's 2015 Annual Convention in San Diego, CA, our membership adopted Resolution #SD-15-001, "In Support of the Name Bear Lodge National Monument (Currently "Devils Tower")". NCAI Resolution #SD-15-001 was originally forwarded for consideration by our membership from the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association.

Throughout history many areas of tribal cultural, religious, and historical importance received different name designations by early non-tribal settlers and the federal government. These names either attempted to reflect the English translations of tribal designations, or entirely replaced them with an unrelated non-tribal description. However, in the case of "Devils Tower" early documented evidence has shown this area labeled as "Bear Lodge" by early settlers, commissioned cartographers, and the U.S. military. The Bear Lodge area also holds immense sacred, religious, and cultural importance to tribes in the region, which has been thoroughly documented by the National Park Service.<sup>1</sup>

For over a century tribes in the region have repeatedly stated that the 1906 "Devils Tower" name is not the correct translation. The designation of "Devils Tower" upon a sacred and culturally significant area to tribes in the region is patently offensive and we are hopeful that you will stand with Indian Country in opposing S. 2039, and instead focus efforts on renaming the area to the Bear Lodge National Monument.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Pata  
Executive Director  
National Congress of American Indians

<sup>1</sup> See National Park Service. "How is Devils Tower a Sacred Site to American Indians". Available at <http://www.nps.gov/deto/learn/historyculture/sacredsites.htm>.



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

## The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #SD-15-001

### TITLE: In Support of the Name Bear Lodge National Monument (Currently "Devils Tower")

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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*Swinomish Tribe*

**FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT**  
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Joe Byrd  
*Cherokee Nation*

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Fawn Sharp  
*Quinalt Indian Nation*

**PACIFIC**  
Jack Potter, Jr.  
*Redding Rancheria*

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Darrin Old Coyote  
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Bruce Ignacio  
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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Jacqueline Pata  
*Tlingit*

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**WHEREAS**, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, religious freedom is an inherent right for all people, guaranteed by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and affirmed under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978; and

**WHEREAS**, centuries before the creation of the United States of America, Indigenous people have revered the mountains commonly referred to as the Black Hills as sacred, including several rock features located in present-day parks in South Dakota and Wyoming; and

**WHEREAS**, Indigenous communities claim their origin in the Black Hills and archeological evidence has revealed that the area was inhabited by some tribes at least as far back as 1000 A.D.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Black Hills sacred places are intricately intertwined with traditional spirituality and culture as demonstrated by ongoing personal rituals (prayer offerings, sweat lodge ceremonies, vision quests), group ceremonies, and sacred narratives including the origins of People, the origin of ceremonies, sacred objects, hero legends); and

**WHEREAS**, the Antiquities Act of 1906 authorizes the President of the United States through executive order to proclaim "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest" as national monuments, in order to preserve public land without waiting for legislation to pass Congress; and

**WHEREAS,** On September 24, 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt used his authority under the Antiquities Act to protect an igneous rock tower in Wyoming as the first national monument, and formally designated the site through Executive Order as “Devil’s Tower National Monument;” and

**WHEREAS,** prior to this designation early white explorers, commissioned cartographers, and United States military leaders consistently employed the name “Bear Lodge” when referring to the site because of its widespread written and oral use of this name by Indigenous people as well as by the incoming federal military, pioneers, miners, and settlers; and

**WHEREAS,** the labels “Bear Lodge” and “Mato Tipila” are the written inscriptions on the earliest photos of this rock feature and the label on the earliest non-Indigenous maps drawn and published by the U.S. Army or commissioned for the United States Geological Service; and

**WHEREAS,** the “Bear Lodge Mountain Range,” remains the officially recognized name for the mountains located immediately east of this geological feature and many established businesses and historical areas identify under the “Bear Lodge” distinction; and

**WHEREAS,** Indigenous people have for over a century repeatedly stated that the 1906 “Devils Tower” name is not the correct translation of the rock’s name and that the Devils Tower name is offensive, insulting, and disparaging because it equates Indigenous cultural and faith traditions practiced at this site to “devil worship,” in essence equating Indigenous people to “devils;” and


**WHEREAS,** nine of the eighteen national monuments established by President Theodore Roosevelt have either been abolished or no longer retain their original monument designation, and almost half of the current national parks have undergone a significant change in their name, agency or boundaries, showing historical precedent for enacting change to reflect the nation’s values, and priorities.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) supports and requests changing the name of “Devils Tower” to “Bear Lodge National Monument” because the 1906 United States’ action to establish a national monument at a historical and existing sacred place is patently offensive, and based on faulty translation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2015 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Town and Country Resort, San Diego, CA, October 18-23, 2015, with a quorum present.

  
Brian Cladoosby, President

**ATTEST:**

  
Aaron Payment, Recording Secretary

Written Testimony submitted to Senate Committee Energy and Natural Resources Sub-Committee on National Parks

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Katie Orsino and I am honored to serve as the Executive Director of the National EMS Memorial Foundation. On behalf of the Foundation I am asking for your favorable consideration of S. 2628 "To authorize the National EMS Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs and for other purposes" to honor the commitment, service and sacrifice of our Nations EMS providers who have lost their lives in the line of duty and for those who continue to serve.

We are not seeking to establish this memorial to represent the memory of a moment, that moment that our loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice. The ideals of "commitment, service and sacrifice " demonstrated by the Nation's Emergency Medical Services are not just about one moment, they are about every moment. The citizens of this nation rely on these ideals for every moment and will continue to do so into the future.

While I a professional understanding of the commitment and service of the Emergency Medical Services I have a personal understanding of the sacrifice, My little brother Matthew was an EMT in Boston and we lost him last February. I know that for the families, the memory of their death will be with us forever and will forever be the most devastating day of our lives. That moment is filled with anger, sadness, and loss. But the remembrance for our families of these lives is filled with smiles, laughter and love. It is not enough to just honor them because of the way they died they should be honored because of the way they lived, as heroes to this nation, not just for a moment but for a lifetime.

The definition of a hero is: A person who, in the face of danger and adversity displays courage or self-sacrifice for some greater good.

This is something that EMTs and Paramedics display everyday on the job and this is what should be honored and remembered . They deserve a memorial that represents a celebration of their lives not the mourning of their death.

This definition does not just apply to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice it also applies to those who have served, currently serve or will serve in the future.

It takes a certain kind of person to be able to do what EMS providers do. They have the courage,bravery and ability to run toward danger without hesitation instead of away from it. They have this natural instinct to not only help and heal but to protect the people in this nation as well as any and all visitors to our country. Everyday on the job EMS providers across the nation display this commitment, service and sacrifice. Everyday they selflessly choose to do what they do, because, It is purely for the greater good.

The moment that one decides to commit to helping and protecting others at all costs, the moment that one chooses to put their own safety aside to help, protect and serve the people in this nation and the moment that one realizes that this commitment and service could in fact lead to the day that you will make the ultimate sacrifice but you do it anyway that, that is the moment that the men and women of EMS should be recognized for.

The men and women of EMS should be remembered for their commitment, service and sacrifice with a National Memorial that honors EMS providers and shows that as a nation we appreciate what they do, have done and will continue to do for us and to know that They Will Always be Remembered...

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

-

Katie Orsino  
Executive Director  
National EMS Memorial Foundation  
617-596-9550  
katie@emsmemorial.com

Statement for the Record  
National Forest System  
Forest Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
United States Senate  
Concerning S. 1577, “East Rosebud Wild and Scenic Rivers Act”  
March 17, 2016

This prepared statement of position reflects the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regarding S. 1577, the “East Rosebud Wild and Scenic Rivers Act”

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Public Law 90-542 (16 U.S.C. 1271-1287, as amended) protects the free-flowing condition, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable natural, cultural, and recreational values of some of our most precious waters. It also provides an opportunity to build partnerships among landowners, river users, tribal nations, and all levels of government.

S. 1577 amends Section 3(a) of the Act to designate certain segments of East Rosebud Creek in Carbon County, Montana, as components of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. It adds a 13-mile segment from the source of the creek in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness to East Rosebud Lake as a wild river, and the 7-mile segment from below East Rosebud Lake to the first private land as a recreational river.

The Department supports S. 1577.

The bill is consistent with the Custer National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan Amendment Number 2, approved December 15, 1989, which identifies the segments as eligible for designation as wild and recreational respectively. The Custer Gallatin National Forest has not conducted a suitability study for East Rosebud Creek; therefore, the Department does not have a recommendation regarding designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. However, as eligible rivers, these segments are currently managed by the Custer Gallatin National Forest in a manner consistent with the proposed designations.

The proposed designations would prohibit future Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s (FERC) licensing of any new hydroelectric facility on, or directly affecting, these creek segments. There is no existing FERC license, nor any pending proposal for a license, in the East Rosebud Creek area.

Congressional designation of these two segments would not disrupt or alter existing management or use of the area surrounding East Rosebud Creek, but would require additional planning and monitoring for the creek and adjacent Custer Gallatin National Forest lands.

**Statement of Maurice A. Barboza, Founder and CEO  
National Mall Liberty Fund DC  
Hearing on H.R. 1949, the National Liberty Memorial Clarification Act  
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
March 17, 2016**

Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell: Thank you for the favorable response to the request of Senator Charles Grassley and Senator Chris Murphy to schedule this hearing on HR 1949, the National Liberty Memorial Clarification Act. A more specific explanation is contained in my attached letter of December 14, 2015, submitted previously, and addressed to House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop. This is the current dilemma of the National Mall Liberty Fund DC, the memorial's sponsor --

*"Instead of a forward-moving journey, with milestones to boast about to prospective donors, we are in an orbit around a bureaucracy from which there is no release.*

Although H.R. 1949 is technical in nature, it is the most critical of the three bills Congress will have considered to advance the National Liberty Memorial from agency conversation, meetings, bureaucracy, and statutory reinvention to bronze, granite, vistas, meaning and inspiration. This includes a general memorial authorization (2012) and the designation of a location in Area I (2014). Without H.R. 1949, the memorial's authorization is bound to be exhausted before a dollar can be raised or a silver shovel of earth excavated to rejoice in the site. Moreover, this is a moment in history when the nation needs an uplifting message about how principles and liberty bind us together as one undividable people.

The bill would eliminate duplication and unnecessary bureaucracy by transferring the site and design responsibilities of the Administrator of the General Services Administration under the Commemorative Works Act to the Secretary of Agriculture. Cosponsor and House Public Lands Chairman Tom McClintock told the House on September 16, 2015, "The proposed site for the memorial is on Department of Agriculture land, so this change makes sense." Sponsor G.K. Butterfield said, "Doing so will allow the memorial sponsor and USDA to make progress on a design and construction plan. This simple change . . . will eliminate duplication, better use scarce Federal resources, and avoid unnecessary delay."

We are optimistic that the Energy and Natural Resources Committee will expedite this legislation in the same bipartisan spirit that characterized action in the House and the three-decades-long history behind earlier attempts to memorialize African American soldiers, patriots and liberty seekers of the Revolutionary War.

On October 9, 1985, then Public Lands Subcommittee Chairman Frank Murkowski said this in his opening remarks concerning previous legislation to establish a memorial:

*America's black freedom fighters are as much a part of our heritage as the Unknown Soldiers — they, through their descendants, are as much a part of America as any one of us here today.*

Page Two

A year later, after the authorization was approved, House sponsor Nancy L. Johnson told the Washington Post:

*"People did have their heads turned . . . and realized their own ignorance and the profound implications of that ignorance. If you really don't know that the nation was founded by both blacks and whites, it is easier to be racist."*

Since Senator Frank Murkowski and Rep. Johnson uttered those words, hundreds of African Americans have either discovered, or been informed by research of, their connections to Revolutionary War ancestors, including the first African American president of the United States. President Obama is descended on his white grandmother's side from Samuel Bunch, an African American patriot who was compensated for a musket and provisions he relinquished to the militia. In 2008, Liberty Fund DC discovered the document that connects John Miles Duvall, a Maryland patriot and signer of an oath of allegiance, to the president's grandfather.

Senators Grassley and Murphy have spoken of Cato Mead, a Norwich, Connecticut soldier who is buried in Montrose, Iowa. A ceremony is held there annually. Senator Grassley and school children of Waterloo have advocated for the memorial beginning in 1985 and 1989. Over 800 patriots are now known to have served from Connecticut. Rep. Butterfield has received communications from officials in the counties in his district where over 100 of the 210 African American patriots of North Carolina once resided. One county commission invited descendants to a special session to explain their heritage.

The states represented on this Committee of Louisiana, Ohio, Tennessee, Vermont, Michigan, West Virginia, Maine, and Massachusetts were, and are, home to these patriots and their descendants. An estimated 1,700 African Americans of Louisiana served under General Bernardo de Galvez according to a 2011 resolution approved by the New Orleans City Council. Sixteen communities in Massachusetts honored the state's 1,500 known patriots. On July 4, 2012, Rep. John Conyers, Jr. placed flowers on the grave of soldier James Robinson at Elmwood Cemetery in Detroit. From the Revolution, War of 1812, Civil War and Emancipation, his devotion to ensuring the founding principles apply to everyone is singularly inspiring. Rep. Conyers told the House, "Their actions demonstrated patriotism in its absolute highest form."

There could be no more meaningful a time than the present to design, construct and contemplate the National Liberty Memorial. But first we need H.R. 1949 to clear a path. We need each member of this Committee to voice your state's connections to the history and your own interpretation of the meaning, regardless of what region you represent. We need officials across America to explain to constituents how it binds us together as a people and will perpetuate and ennoble America's generational striving for justice and greatness.


 National Liberty Memorial

December 14, 2015

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
 Chairman  
 Committee on Natural Resources  
 House of Representatives  
 1324 Longworth House Office Building  
 Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I would have written earlier had I known before late last week that the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission had submitted views on H.R. 1949, the National Liberty Memorial Clarification Act, over a month ago on November 3, 2015. The bill was approved unanimously under your leadership and that of Rep. Tom McClintock, chairman of the Subcommittee on Federal Lands, and admirable bipartisan cooperation in the committee and on the House floor. The debate was clear, convincing and accurate in explaining the need to transfer certain responsibilities under the Commemorative Works Act (Act), from the General Services Administration to the Department of Agriculture.

National Mall Liberty Fund DC is grateful for the unique opportunity to establish a memorial in Area I of the nation's capital and privileged to work with the Commission. This comes with an obligation to anticipate problems, use the seven-year authorization efficiently and get the job done without excuses or lack of watchfulness. While I hold the Commission and Mr. Peter May in the highest regard for their expeditious handling of the National Liberty Memorial, I respectfully disagree with the letter's 10 or so nonspecific conclusions. While it is the Commission's prerogative to oppose H.R. 1949, why not advise the Committee of how it would propose GSA better handle this project.

Rather than addressing each conclusion, I mention three that make the strongest case for H.R. 1949 and suggest the shakiness of the others. First, "nothing currently prevents collaboration between the Department and the GSA." Second, the "legislation would unnecessarily complicate the... proven processes laid out by the Act." Third, H.R. 1949 "could ultimately inhibit the progress of the Memorial." The project could not be more inhibited than it is now with two years of a seven year authorization idled away. On September 14, 2015, I reminded the Commission that at the June 5, 2014, hearing on designs for a new Whitten landscape, "NCPC (National Capital Planning Commission) noted that USDA... told NCMAC during the December (12, 2013 Commission) meeting it would "work with the Fund to develop a design and narrative that would meet the needs of both parties." That was **732 days** ago.

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
 December 14, 2015  
 Page Two

My attached letters to GSA of December 8 and December 18, 2014, to a planning director and the Administrator, respectively, attempt to clarify that no design competition is mandatory and that it would be "to GSA's credit to recognize the advantages of close cooperation between USDA and Liberty Fund DC." Much of the frustration confronted by the Fund in fulfilling our obligations stem from GSA's lack of familiarity with the Act, the slowness of the learning curve or ulterior motives and the failure to understand that a memorial authorization is finite, unlike an agency's existence. These letters and conversations before and after were an effort to work through these obstacles sensibly.

However, when Rep. G.K. Butterfield introduced H.R. 1949 with Chairman McClintock on April 22, 2014, **124 days** had elapsed without a response. By the time Minority Manager Rep. Debbie Dingell had concluded her remarks on the floor the afternoon of September 16, 2015, **282 days** had elapsed. As of today, the number is **372 days** and counting. We still have made no progress with USDA on our draft Memorandum of Understanding or draft design principles or an understanding of its design goals. If this cannot be achieved, there would be no point of an environmental assessment or alternative designs on the Whitten site. It would be a waste of money the Fund does not have and is not inclined to raise unless donors can be assured of a probability of success and no further roadblocks.

The Commission's letter says, "...the Fund has not yet undertaken an Environmental Assessment (EA) nor received site approval. H.R. 1949 is premature in its assumption that the Memorial will be placed on lands adjacent to the Whitten Building where a relationship with the Department would be required." No matter how many designs we submit or environmental assessments that duplicate the one already done by USDA (which includes Whitten west), we could not obtain the site if GSA continues to invent new obstacles or requirements that are inconsistent with the Act. These unpredictable demands are especially trying when we have no clue of the reasons or how long it will take GSA to recognize they are neither required by, or consistent with, the Act. My letter of December 8, 2014, cautions:

"...any work performed by GSA in the planning, coordination and execution of a design competition or RFP or in the selection of consultants, architects, engineers, and sculptors would violate the CWA. If GSA co-opts the functions of the sponsor, LFDC would become a conduit for fundraising instead of a creative engine for a unique memorial."

The Commission's letter fails to address the point made by Rep. Dingell concerning the elimination of "unnecessary bureaucracy." USDA does not need GSA to schedule its meetings, take notes or express its positions. There is an extreme cost of duplication to both the government, which is prohibited from using unnecessary Federal resources, and the Fund, which cannot raise money in an environment of delay and confusion over who does what, when and how.

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
 December 14, 2015  
 Page Three

The National Park Service has nearly 30 years of experience operating under the Act. However, the same is not true for GSA. Neither agency has promulgated regulations for guidance and consistency. There has been minimal, if any, congressional oversight and no opportunity for public comment on the non-legislative changes to the memorial process since 1986. The process has become almost impossible for a non-profit to negotiate while remaining frugal and accountable to donors and volunteers. Many projects have turned to "silver spoon" appropriations that go against the grain of the Act or squandered millions in taxpayer or private dollars in eternal back and forth. But why would any private donor, considering scores of other worthy requests, give up to \$1 million for an environmental assessment and designs touching multiple sites for which there are no detectable indications that any will be approved? Moreover, there are no possessory, anticipatory, future interests or bragging rights to the property even if the environmental assessment is optimistic.

Instead of a forward-moving journey, with milestones to boast about to prospective donors, we are in an orbit around a bureaucracy from which there is no release. We are urging the Senate to follow the lead of the House and approve H.R. 1949. Otherwise we will quickly come to the end of our seven-year authorization asking the Commission to support an extension. If an extension were sought, the first question the Commission would ask is "why didn't you obtain a site and raise the money? What could we say if we had not had the common sense to speak up now?"

With best wishes,



Maurice A. Barboza  
 Founder

The Honorable Tom McClintock  
 The Honorable Raul Grijalva  
 The Honorable Niki Tsongas  
 The Honorable Debbie Dingell  
 The Honorable G. K. Butterfield  
 The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
 The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
 The Honorable Bill Cassidy  
 The Honorable Martin Heinrich  
 The Honorable Charles Grassley  
 The Honorable Chris Murphy



**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
336 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
HEARING ON S. 2309, S. 1975, S. 2177, H.R. 2880, S. 1943  
MARCH 17, 2016**

**TESTIMONY OF THOMAS J. CASSIDY, JR.  
VICE PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND POLICY**

Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Cantwell and members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to present the National Trust for Historic Preservation's recommendations on five historically significant bills in today's hearing. My name is Thomas J. Cassidy, Jr. and I am the Vice President of Government Relations and Policy.

The National Trust is a privately-funded nonprofit organization chartered by Congress in 1949. We work to save America's historic places to enrich our future. With headquarters in Washington, D.C., nine field offices, 27 historic sites, more than 800,000 members and supporters and partner organizations in 50 states, territories, and the District of Columbia, the National Trust works to save America's historic places and advocates for historic preservation as a fundamental value in programs and policies at all levels of government.

We appreciate the Committee scheduling this hearing on more than 20 legislative proposals. We will confine our testimony to five of these bills that are of great importance to ensuring our national system of protected areas tells the stories of all Americans. The National Trust enthusiastically supports these five bills and looks forward to their enactment this year.

**S. 2309, U.S. Civil Rights Network**

The National Trust strongly supports Senator Sherrod Brown and Senator Lamar Alexander in their work to establish the U.S. Civil Rights Network.

The U.S. Civil Rights Network Act would establish an on-going National Park Service (NPS) program to educate the public and provide technical assistance for documenting, preserving, and interpreting the history of the civil rights movement. It would also direct the Secretary of the Interior to create a national network of historic sites, stories, research facilities, and educational programs connected to the African American civil rights movement from the time period of 1939 – 1968.

The network would be similar to The Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, established by *The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998*. The Underground Railroad Network to Freedom builds on local, community-led initiatives to preserve and interpret sites relevant to that era. This includes more than 500 locally-administered sites, programs, and facilities across 37 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. For instance, there are dozens of houses in Ohio, Maryland, Michigan, and other states that were once used in the Underground Railroad that are now incorporated into the Network to Freedom trail.

The Civil Rights Network would include all NPS sites that relate to the African American civil rights movement from 1939-1968, and would authorize the NPS to include in the Network other federal, state, local and privately owned properties that have a verifiable connection to the African American Civil Rights movement. The legislation would also authorize cooperative agreements to meet the purposes of the Network.

The U.S. Civil Rights Network would also build on the work of the NPS's Civil Rights Initiative program which provides historic preservation grants to preserve sites and stories from the era.

Bipartisan legislation, H.R. 3683, has also been introduced by Representative William Lacy Clay (D-MO) and Jason Smith (R-MO), along with 68 additional cosponsors, to establish the substantially similar African American Civil Rights Network.

#### **S. 1975, Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site**

We appreciate Senator Barbara Mikulski's leadership on this legislation. The Sewall-Belmont House, located in the same city block as the Dirksen and Hart Senate Office Buildings, is a site of national significance in the history of women's progress toward civic equality. The historic site and its archival collection explore the evolving role of women and their contributions to society. The House's inclusion in the National Park System will protect its historic resources for Americans to enjoy in perpetuity.

The Sewall-Belmont House is a National Historic Landmark, listed on the National Register of Historic Places and one of four original designations supported by the Save America's Treasures legislation, along with the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the Star Spangled Banner.

As the headquarters for the historic National Woman's Party and home of the suffragist leader, Alice Paul, the Sewall-Belmont House is an important place to our national story. The political strategies and techniques of Alice Paul and the National Woman's Party's became the blueprint for civil-rights organization throughout the twentieth century. As the National Park System currently has just a handful of sites that celebrate women's history, the addition of the Sewall-Belmont House will address an important chapter in American history that is currently underrepresented in the National Parks System.

The Sewall-Belmont House National Historic Site has bipartisan support and 16 cosponsors.

#### **S. 2177, Medgar Evers House Study Act**

The National Trust appreciates Senator Thad Cochran and Senator Roger Wicker for their leadership on this legislation. The National Trust strongly supports the study of this site to assess its suitability for the National Park System.

Medgar Evers was a leader in the civil rights movement and the first NAACP field secretary for Mississippi, a position he served in from 1955 until his assassination at age 37, on June 12, 1963. Mr. Evers' Jackson Mississippi house was designated a Mississippi landmark on November 9, 1993, and was listed in on the National Register on December 5, 2000. This bill would authorize

the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the home of Mr. Evers to determine significance, suitability, and feasibility of being a unit of the National Park System.

Legislation has also been introduced by Representative Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS), H.R. 959 to establish the Medgar Evers Study Act.

**H.R. 2880, Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historical Park Act of 2016**

We appreciate Representative John Lewis' leadership on this legislation to establish the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historical Park. The Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site in the Sweet Auburn district of Atlanta, Georgia comprises the places where Dr. King was born, worked, worshiped and is buried. The re-designation of this historic site as a National Historic Park will protect the history of the American Civil Rights Movement tell the story of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life.

The Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Park Act of 2016 has bipartisan support and 77 House cosponsors.

**S. 1943, Shiloh National Military Park Boundary Adjustment and Parker's Crossroads Battlefield Designation Act**

The National Trust appreciates Senator Lamar Alexander's leadership on this legislation. Shiloh National Military Park is the site of the two-day Civil War battle of Shiloh in 1862, where 23,746 men were wounded, captured, or killed. At the time, it was the worst battle in U.S. history. This legislation would expand the boundaries of Shiloh National Military Park to include the Fallen Timbers Battlefield, the Russell House Battlefield and the Davis Bridge Battlefield. These sites would contribute significantly to the telling of the history of the Civil War.

Legislation has also been introduced by Representative Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) to H.R. 87, to establish the Shiloh National Military Park Boundary Adjustment and Parker's Crossroads Battlefield Designation Act.

Thank you again for the opportunity to present the National Trust's perspectives on these five important preservation bills. We look forward to working with the Committee to ensure these bills are enacted into law this year.

The Office of Louis Nelson

Strategists  
Designers  
Artists

11 March 2016

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The Honorable Bill Cassidy  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
Committee on Energy and National  
Resources

The Honorable Martin Heinrich  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on National Parks  
Committee on Energy and National  
Resources

**RE: Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation Strong Support For  
S. 1982, the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act of 2016**

**Dear Chairman Cassidy and Ranking Member Heinrich:**

I am the designer and artist of the Mural at the Korean War Veterans Memorial on the National Mall and a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors.

On behalf of our fellow Korean War Veterans and the families of the 36,574 American Soldiers who were Killed in Action or died in performance of their duty during the war, we urge your strong support and favorable consideration of S-1982. A similar Bill HR-1475, was passed by voice vote in the House on 24 Feb 16 having at the time 300 co-sponsors.

This Bill will finally ensure full compliance with the intent of Congress as stipulated in PL99-572, to wit: "To authorize the erection of a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor members of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Korean War." The language of this law was specific in intent namely, "...to honor members of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Korean war, particularly those who were killed in action, are still listed as missing in action, or were held as prisoners of war".

The Bill also directed the President to appoint members to a Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory Board whose function was to select a site, design, raise funds, build and dedicate the Memorial. The original final design selected by the Board, and as presented to President George H. W. Bush, included a Wall of Names!

This design was rejected by the agencies such as National Capital Planning Commission, Fine Arts Commission, etc. The presumption for rejection presumably stemmed from the then heated controversy over the Vietnam Memorial in that survivors of that war felt the Memorial failed to honor their service.

Though this was ultimately resolved by the addition of the three soldier sculpture, it came too late in the negotiations of a final design for the Korean Memorial! In short, an aura of no more 'Wall of Names' on the Grand Mall prevailed and a subliminal means was chosen to acknowledge those who fell in battle by including a Pool of Remembrance in the Memorial.

## The Office of Louis Nelson.

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Sadly, the subliminal message is far too subtle and is not conveyed to the visitors to the Memorial. They are awed by the Memorial's magnificence as a 'work of art' but fail to see or comprehend the intended theme of the Memorial that 'FREEDOM IS NOT FREE'! They depart inspired by the artistry, but unaware of the intent of the Memorial!

Enactment of this proposed legislation, to authorize the addition of a glass Wall of Remembrance to the Memorial, will succeed in turning a magnificent work of art into the Memorial it was intended to be! It will enhance the Memorial and of glass will not impede full visual inclusion with the Mall as a whole or isolate the Memorial. It will instead add a subtle sense of closure while still fully integrating the Memorial to the Grand Mall as a whole!

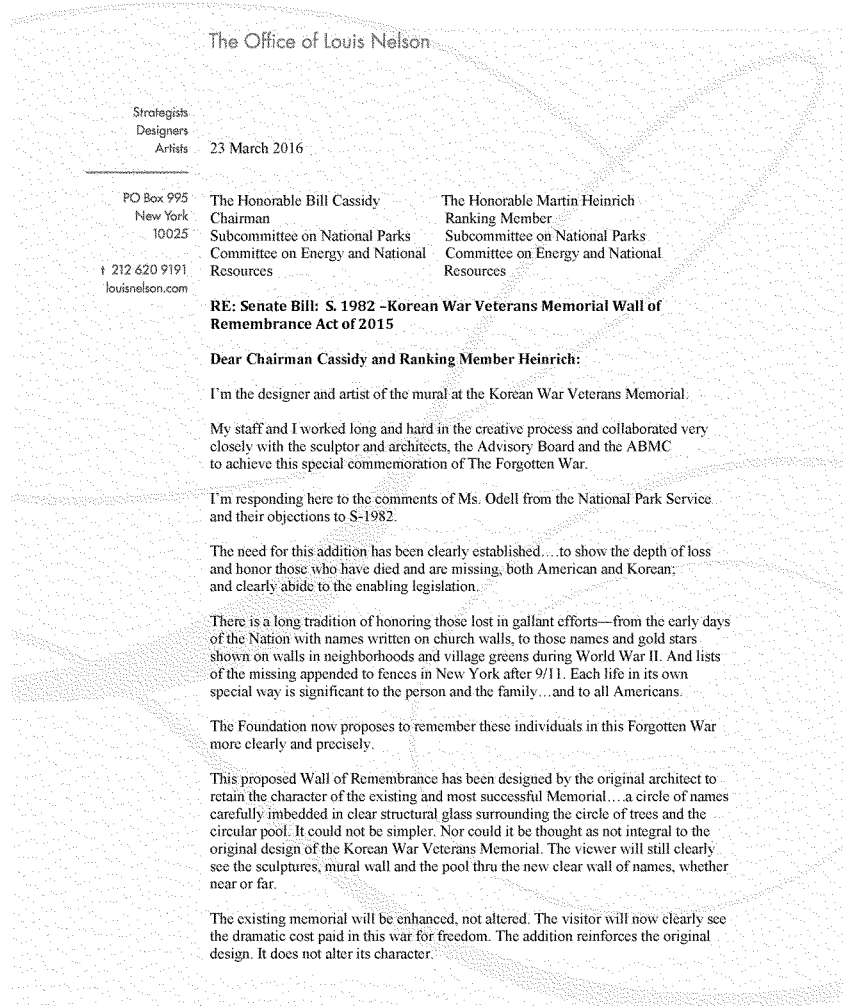
Further, in company with the Pool of Remembrance the Wall of Remembrance will finally complete the full intent of the Memorial as was envisioned by the Congress when it enacted PL99-572!!

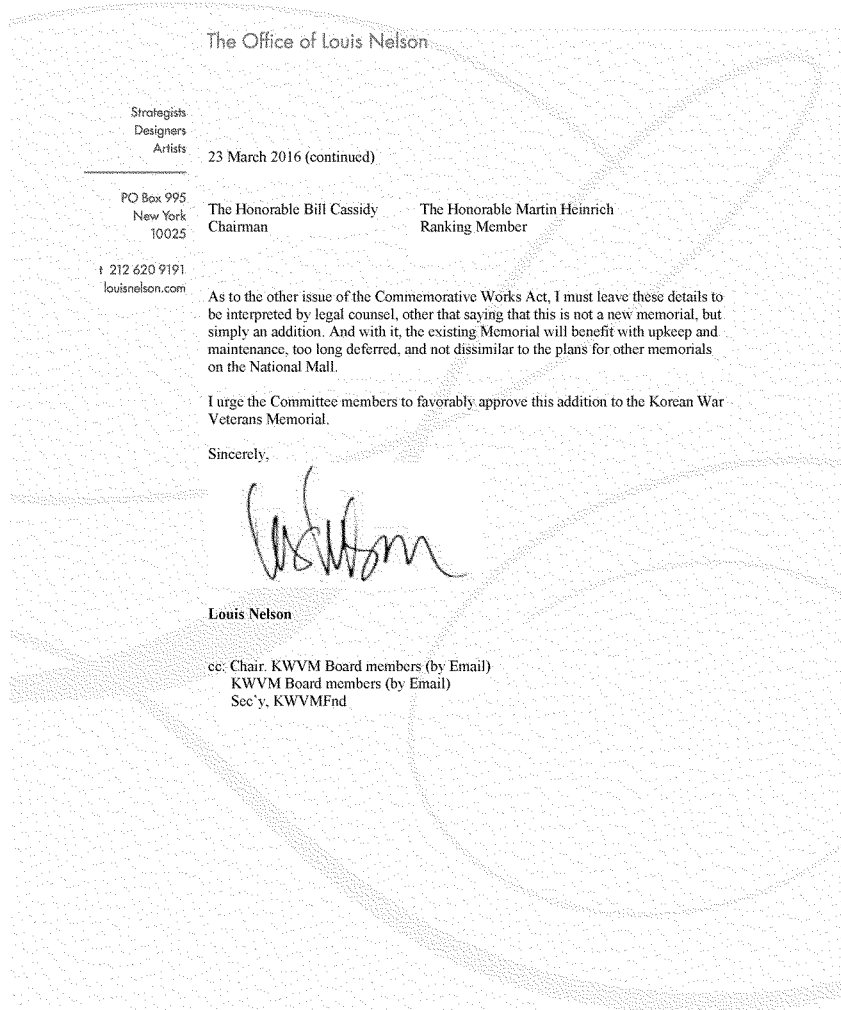
Thank you for your consideration of this request.



**Louis Nelson**

cc: Sen. Cardin  
Chair, KWVM Board members (by Email)  
KWVM Board members (by Email)  
Sec'y, KWVMFnd





Written testimony in support of Senate 2628 “to authorize the National EMS Memorial Foundation establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

Thank you to Chair and Commission.

My name is Tony O’Brien, I am an Emergency Medical Technician for the City of Boston. I have been with the department for sixteen years. As a member of the Boston EMS Honor Guard, I have been detailed to dozens of funeral services, in several states, for EMTs and paramedics who lost their lives in line of duty.

Every time I attend a funeral for an EMS line of duty death, I am reminded that the person we are there to honor put their uniform on that fateful day not knowing they would never return home. These are always very emotional affairs. For me, as an EMS provider myself, it makes me think of my own family, my wife, my three children and how they would feel if, God forbid, the unthinkable should happen while I am work. As a member of an Honor Guard detailed to casket watch, I have stood silently next to more fallen heroes than I wish to remember. I have witnessed the anguish, and heard the painful whispers of loved ones as they say their final goodbye. After the services have concluded we try to spend some time with the family and co workers of the deceased. The stories we hear are always the same: “She helped so many people,” “He would do anything for anyone,” and most commonly we hear “He died doing what he loved.” It takes a special kind of person to do the work we do, and when those people are gone, they leave a huge void in their agencies, their families and their communities.

I have stayed in touch with several family members of fallen EMS providers over the years. On occasion I have been asked where the Memorial is located. The answer was, and remains today, heartbreaking. The answer is: **Nowhere**. There is no Memorial for our nation’s forgotten heroes. As tragic as each and every line of duty death is, that sadness is compounded by the fact that those who are left behind have nowhere to go to remember their hero other than the graveside.

Occupational fatalities in EMS have been studied by government agencies including the Department of Labor Statistics and the National Institute for Occupational Safety. Each study concludes that EMS providers have among the highest rates of occupational fatality in the United States.

Despite this fact, unlike our counterparts in the police and fire services, there is no National Memorial for fallen EMS providers. Realizing this was unacceptable, a group of EMTs and Paramedics from coast to coast collaborated to address the issue. The

National EMS Memorial Foundation is the embodiment of that collective effort. I am privileged to serve as the Treasurer of the Foundation which enjoys support from all forms of EMS. We are hospital based, municipal, private, we're volunteer, fire based, federal and tribal agencies. We operate in the air, on land and on water. We share a common mission: do whatever it takes to save the lives of the sick and the injured. We also share common dangers and tragically, each year, dozens of EMS providers lose their lives while trying to save others.

We are now united in another mission, to establish a fitting Memorial for our fallen brothers and sisters right here in the nation's capital. I urge you to look favorably upon this Bill and allow us to finally honor the commitment, service and sacrifice of these unsung American Heroes.

Thank you for your time,

Tony O'Brien.

Written testimony in support of Senate 2628 "to authorize the National EMS Memorial Foundation establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

Thank you to Chair and Commission.

My name is James Orsino. I am a Boston EMT serving on the evening tour in Charlestown. I am also the President of the Boston Police Patrolman's association EMS Division and President of the EMS Labor Alliance.

The Commitment of this Nations EMS is best defined in a bottom up fashion. More than 850,000 EMS providers answer every call for help at all hours of the day, at a moments notice, and without regard for their personal safety. Few enterprises can trace their roots back to the very beginnings of this nation under these type of terms.

In the current day the commitment that one makes to this Public Service continues to include increasing levels of risk.

Within the Nations preparedness system EMS is tasked with roles in support of Law Enforcement in the prevention and interaction of Terrorist activity. In the case of the domestic terrorist attack at the Boston Marathon EMS was not among the First Responders to assist victims. They were the First Responders. EMS providers were treating victims with life saving care from the first blast before the second bomb even detonated.

Tragically three lives were lost that day but many many more were saved. History may have been very different that day if not for the commitment of EMS providers to respond and treat those injured without regard for their own safety.

And the Nation continues to rely on that commitment in an ever increasing fashion. There has been a 150% increase in active shooter incidents in the past 5 years. In response to this the Nations Law Enforcement and EMS have been tasked with a response task force approach to active shooter incidents. In this approach Law Enforcement deploys a contact team while EMS simultaneously begins treating the victims at the scene. Police officers are equipped with firearms and ballistic armor to defend themselves, EMS is not. This national strategy relies solely on the commitment of EMS providers to respond without hesitation and with no regard for their personal safety.

The service that EMS provides to this nation ensures that the spectrum of care is available to 22 million patients per year at a moments notice and regardless of their location. These patients range from the simplest of illness to the most critical of injury. EMS service is a fundamental reality of everyday life here in America. Every citizen knows that this service, whether they call 911 or not is still only a phone call away.

The EMS profession is inherently dangerous. EMS respond in conditions in which the safety systems have already failed. EMS responds when the road conditions cause vehicles to crash. EMS respond when the laws have broken down and violence has taken

over. EMS responds when infectious disease needs to be contained before a patient goes to the hospital. EMS responds when terrorists strike at our country. EMS responds when nature rages out of control. EMS responds when terrorist crash planes into buildings. In each of these circumstances EMTs & Paramedics have made the ultimate sacrifice for the greater good.

Every year the Nation promises that they will never forget the sacrifices that First Responders made on September 11, 2001. The reality for the EMS responders is that they were never remembered. They remain, 15 years later, as the only first responders who were never remember for their sacrifice. Certainly their families and loved one feel no less loss because of the uniforms that the EMS providers wore. Equally, the Nation should not express its loss in any different fashion.

There is not a National Memorial for EMS providers. The National EMS Memorial dedicated to the ideal of the Commitment, Service and Sacrifice of EMS providers is the solution to this issue.

We want to thank this committee for its leadership and guidance on this important public matter. We ask that the Committee consider and favorably report Senate 2628 in order for The National EMS Memorial Foundation may continue to move forward with its critical mission.

Respectfully submitted,

James J. Orsino



**THE PARTNERSHIP FOR  
THE 21ST CENTURY CONSERVATION SERVICE CORPS**

March 17, 2016

The Honorable Bill Cassidy  
Chairman  
Senate Subcommittee on National Parks  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich  
Ranking Member  
Senate Subcommittee on National Parks  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cassidy and Ranking Member Heinrich,

We write in strong support of S. 1993, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) Act, introduced by Senator John McCain and Senator Michael Bennet, under consideration by your subcommittee.

We want to provide you with the enclosed support letter on the Act sent to Sens. McCain and Bennet and signed by 80 different national and regional corporations and organizations like KEEN, the Outdoor Industry Association, the Vet Voice Foundation, and the American Recreation Coalition. The 21CSC initiative has also been supported by other corporations like the North Face and American Eagle Outfitters.

Former Army General Stanley McChrystal and President Bush's Domestic Policy Advisor, John Bridgeland, are key supporters of 21CSC. We're privileged to also have the support of the past four most recent Secretaries of the Interior – two Republicans and two Democrats – along with current Secretary Sally Jewell including 21CSC as a key pillar of her Youth and Engaging the Next Generation Initiative.

As the co-chairs of the Partnership for the 21CSC, we work with and support key federal, state, local and non-profit leaders, along with corporations and foundations, to promote the development and implementation of the 21CSC to reach its goal of engaging 100,000 youth and veterans in conservation service opportunities. To understand the scope of the 21CSC initiative, we have also enclosed membership list.

We appreciate your efforts in bringing the 21CSC Act up for consideration in the subcommittee and stand ready to support passage of this important legislation in any way by providing more information or providing Corpsmembers that have benefited from 21CSC to testify. Thank you again for your consideration and we look forward to passage of the bipartisan 21CSC Act.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Sprenkel  
Co-Chair  
President & CEO, The Corps Network

Harry Bruell  
Co-Chair  
President & CEO, Conservation Legacy

**1275 K St. NW, Suite 1050 | Washington, DC 20005 | p: 202.737.6272 | f: 202.737.6277**



**THE PARTNERSHIP FOR  
THE 21ST CENTURY CONSERVATION SERVICE CORPS**

**Enclosure:**

The Honorable John McCain  
US Senator  
218 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Bennet  
US Senator  
261 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McCain and Senator Bennet,

We, the undersigned, write to thank you for the introduction of the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps Act of 2015 (S. 1993) and pledge to work with you to support passage of the bill into law.

The 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) is a bold national initiative that addresses the need for service and work-experience opportunities for young people and veterans; the need for maintenance, restoration, and research on our public lands, waters, natural and cultural resources; the need to connect Americans to the outdoors; and the need to develop the next generation of diverse public and private sector natural resource employees. The 21CSC will put America's youth and returning veterans to work preserving, protecting, and promoting America's greatest resources on public lands and in communities while building America's future.

The 21CSC is a public-private partnership between resource conservation programs, land management agencies, and the private sector that increases service and work opportunities and encourages those agencies to use Conservation Service Corps to more effectively meet agency missions at no additional cost to the taxpayer by leveraging existing federal funds. The 21st Century Conservation Service Corps Act of 2015 establishes into law the 21CSC with the aim of growing the 21CSC to 100,000 participants per year by 2018. The bill would do this by:

- Giving relevant federal agencies and departments the authority to engage Conservation Service Corps to complete pressing projects. Enlisting Corps to do priority work has often proven to be more cost-effective for federal agencies.
- Expanding the number of federal agencies and departments who can engage Conservation Service Corps and encouraging coordination across the federal government to identify ways agencies can leverage existing resources to expand the use of Conservation Corps to meet their missions. Participating Agencies and Departments include: the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Transportation, Labor, Energy, Defense, Veterans Affairs, and Commerce, and the EPA, Council on Environmental Quality, and Corporation for National and Community Service.
- Requiring reporting by participating agencies and departments and the GAO to avoid duplication and inefficiency to ensure the activities are done in a cost-efficient manner.

By relying on existing funding sources and creative funding strategies, including private support and crowd-sourcing, these important goals can be accomplished without additional federal funding by leveraging additional projects important to the nation in preserving, protecting, and promoting America's resources.

**1275 K St. NW, Suite 1050 | Washington, DC 20005 | p: 202.737.6272 | f: 202.737.6277**



### **THE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE 21ST CENTURY CONSERVATION SERVICE CORPS**

The opportunities provided by 21CSC programs encourage young people and veterans to assume responsibility for the stewardship and preservation of America's great outdoors, and also teach participants important career skills at a time when youth and veteran unemployment are at near record levels and young people are missing out on critical early job experiences. We know veterans are also seeking ways to transition into the civilian workforce.

In addition, 21CSC programs improve public health by helping young people develop and maintain active lifestyles while simultaneously increasing access to outdoor recreation, fostering healthy lifestyles in communities across America. What's more, the 21CSC will complete thousands of critical projects in a cost effective manner, from wildfire mitigation and disaster relief to urban agriculture and habitat restoration.

Thank you again for championing national service and introducing the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps Act in recognition of the important work to be done in preserving our natural resources and meaningfully engaging youth and veterans. We look forward to working with your offices as this legislation moves through Congress and becomes law.

Sincerely,

#### **National and Multi-Region Organizations**

America Forests	HistoriCorps
American Hiking Society	International Mountain Bicycling Association
American Recreation Coalition	KEEN
Appalachian Trail Conservancy	Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics
Association for Experiential Education	National Interscholastic Cycling Association
Back Country Horsemen of America	National Parks Conservation Association
Big City Mountaineers	Outdoor Industry Association
BRIDGE Network	Outward Bound Adventures
CCC Legacy	Partnership for the National Trails System
Conservation Lands Foundation	The Wetlands Initiative
Conservation Legacy	The Wilderness Society
Continental Divide Trail Coalition	Vet Voice Foundation
Environmental Stewards	Win-ar-zic & Associates
Green Schools Alliance	YouthBuild USA

#### **Local and State-Based Organizations**

Amargosa Conservancy (California)	Colorado Canyons Association (Colorado)
Arizona Trail Association (Arizona)	Colorado Youth Corps Association (Colorado)
BHK Child Development Board (Michigan)	Confluence Environmental Company
California Association of Local Conservation	(Washington)
Corps (California)	Conservation Colorado (Colorado)
CA Outdoor Engagement Coalition, UC	Conservation Trust for North Carolina (North
Berkeley's College of Natural Resources	Carolina)
(California)	Cumberland Trail Conference (Tennessee)

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### THE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE 21ST CENTURY CONSERVATION SERVICE CORPS

Durango Parks and Recreation Department (Colorado)	Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance (Michigan)
EcoServants (New Mexico)	Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust (Washington)
Father Martin's Ashley (Maryland)	Neighborhood Recovery CDC (Texas)
Forest Stewards Guild (New Mexico)	North Country Trail Association (North Dakota)
Franklin's Promise Coalition (Florida)	O'Neill Sea Odyssey (California)
Gripcase (Illinois)	Phoenix School of Roseburg (Oregon)
Groundwork Elizabeth (New Jersey)	Pueblo of Zuni (New Mexico)
Groundwork Hudson Valley (New York)	Questa Economic Development Fund (New Mexico)
Groundwork Milwaukee (Wisconsin)	REI Boulder (Colorado)
Groundwork Richmond (California)	Rivers & Birds (New Mexico)
Heartland Conservation Alliance (Missouri)	Rocky Mountain Conservancy (Colorado)
Hill Country Conservancy (Texas)	Siskiyou Mountain Club (Oregon)
Hilltop (Colorado)	South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership (Oregon)
Hipcamp (California)	SouthWestern Conservation (Colorado)
Housing Authority City of Milwaukee (Wisconsin)	Spearhead Trails (Virginia)
Jester Concepts (Minnesota)	Texas Children in Nature (Texas)
Latin American Youth Center (Washington, DC)	Texas State University (Texas)
Looking Glass Lane-Metro Youth Corps (Oregon)	TVSC, Inc. (Pennsylvania)
Lopez Island Conservation Corps (Washington)	Western Slope Conservation Center (Colorado)
Lula Lake Land Trust (Georgia)	White Mountain Youth Corps (Arizona)
Member, Montana House of Representatives, District 65 (Montana)	Wild Trails (Tennessee)

### 21CSC Member Organizations

American Conservation Experience (ACE) - National	Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation - Montana
Environmental Stewards - National	Bootstraps-University of Nevada Bootstraps Program - Nevada
Geological Society of America- GeoCorps America Program - National	CAC AmeriCorps - Tennessee
Geological Society of America- Mosaics in Science Program - National	Caldera - Oregon
The Student Conservation Association - National	California Conservation Corps - California
Alaska Geographic - Alaska	Canyon Country Youth Corps - Utah
American Conservation Experience - Arizona	Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council Region - Oregon
Anchorage Park Foundation - Alaska	Chesapeake Conservation Corps - Maryland
Angoon Community Association - Alaska	Citizens Conservation Corps of West Virginia - West Virginia
Appalachian Mountain Club - Massachusetts	City of Chattanooga - Tennessee
Appalachian Trail Conservancy - Virginia	CivicWorks - Maryland
Arizona Conservation Corps - Arizona	Civic Assets - California
Big Island Invasive Species Committee - Hawaii	Conservation Legacy - Colorado



### THE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE 21ST CENTURY CONSERVATION SERVICE CORPS

Civicorps Corpsmember Academy - California  
 Colorado Youth Corps Association - Colorado  
 Common Ground: The New Haven Ecology Project - Connecticut  
 Community Training Works, Inc. - Florida  
 Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa - Minnesota  
 Conservation Corps of Long Beach - California  
 Conservation Corps North Bay - California  
 Conservation Trust of North Carolina - North Carolina  
 Coos Watershed Association - Oregon  
 Council Summer Work Crew - Idaho  
 Discover your Forest - Oregon  
 EarthCorps - Washington  
 Earth Conservation Corps - D.C.  
 Ecological Society of America (SEEDS) - D.C.  
 EcoServants - New Mexico  
 Environment for the Americas - Colorado  
 Environmental Learning for Kids - Colorado  
 Environmental Stewards - Colorado  
 FIELD- Kern Service and Conservation Corps - California  
 Florida Trail Association - Florida  
 Forest Guild - New Mexico  
 Forest Park Forever - Missouri  
 Framing Our Community Inc. - Idaho  
 Fresno EOC Local Conservation Corps - California  
 Friends of Sylvania - Michigan  
 Friends of the Teton River - Idaho  
 Geological Society of America - Colorado  
 Grand Staircase Escalante Partners - Utah  
 Great Basin Institute - Nevada  
 Great Lakes Community Conservation Corps - Wisconsin  
 Greater Miami Service Corps (GMSC) - Florida  
 Green City Force - New York  
 The Green Mountain Club - Vermont  
 The Green Schools Alliance - New York  
 The Greening of Detroit - Michigan  
 Greening Youth Foundation - Georgia  
 Groundwork Cincinnati/Mill Creek - Ohio  
 Groundwork Denver - Colorado  
 Groundwork Dona Ana County - New Mexico  
 Groundwork Hudson Valley - New York  
 Groundwork Lawrence - Massachusetts  
 Groundwork Milwaukee - Wisconsin  
 Groundwork Somerville - Massachusetts  
 Groundwork USA - New York  
 Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources - Hawaii  
 Heart of Oregon Corps - Oregon  
 HistoriCorps - Colorado  
 Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers - Colorado  
 Kupu/Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps - Hawaii  
 Kwiatt - Washington  
 Lane-Metro Youth Corps (LMYC) - Oregon  
 Larimer County Conservation Corps - Colorado  
 Latin American Youth Center (LAYC) - DC  
 Lawn Life - Ohio  
 Limitless Vistas, Inc. - Louisiana  
 Lomakatsi Restoration Project - Oregon  
 Lopez Island Conservation Corps - Washington  
 Los Angeles Conservation Corps - California  
 Louisiana Green Corps - Louisiana  
 Maine Conservation Corps - Maine  
 Maryland Conservation Corps - Maryland  
 Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance - Hawaii  
 McKenzie River Ranger District - Oregon  
 Mile High Youth Corps - Colorado  
 Milwaukee Community Service Corps (MCSC) - Wisconsin  
 Minnesota Green Corps - Minnesota  
 Minnesota Pollution Control Agency - Minnesota  
 Missouri State Parks Youth Corps - Missouri  
 Mobile Works, Inc. - Alabama  
 MobilizeGreen - DC  
 Montana Conservation Corps - Montana  
 Montana Discovery Foundation - Montana  
 Montana State Parks AmeriCorps - Montana  
 Montana Wilderness Association - Montana  
 Mt. Adams Institute - Washington  
 National Association of State Park Directors - North Carolina  
 National Center for Science and Civic Engagement (GLISTEN) - Ohio  
 National Civilian Community Corps - DC  
 National Forest Foundation - Montana  
 National Wildlife Federation (Southeast Office)  
 Atlanta Earth Tomorrow - Georgia  
 The Nature Conservancy (LEAF) - New York  
 Nevada Outdoor School - Nevada



### **THE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE 21ST CENTURY CONSERVATION SERVICE CORPS**

New Jersey Youth Corps - New Jersey	Southeast Alaska Guidance Association - Alaska
Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps - Minnesota	Southeast Youth Corps - Tennessee
Northland College - Wisconsin	Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards - Tennessee
Northwest Youth Corps - Oregon	Southwest Conservation Corps - Colorado
NorthWoods Conservation Corps - Vermont	Southwest Boston Community Development Corporation - Massachusetts
North Fork John Day Watershed Council - Oregon	Southern Utah University's Intergovernmental Internship Cooperative - Utah
Operation Fresh Start, Inc. - Wisconsin	Sovereign Nations Service Corps - New Mexico
Orange County Conservation Corps - California	Student Conservation Association - D.C.
Out of the Ashes Foundation Inc. - Florida	Sumter County Youthbuild Program - South Carolina
Outward Bound Adventures - California	Talking Talons - New Mexico
Oxnard City Corps - California	Texas Conservation Corps - Texas
Pacific Northwest Trail Association - Washington	Trails for Illinois - Illinois
Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute - Idaho	The Work Group- New Jersey Youth Corps-Camden - New Jersey
Pathways - Virginia	The WorkPlace - Connecticut
Phoenix School of Roseburg - Oregon	Tree Trust - Minnesota
Project YESS Youth Conservation Corps - Oregon	Tillamook School District No.9 - Oregon
The Rockaway Waterfront Alliance - New York	Unity College - Maine
Rocky Mountain Conservancy - Colorado	Urban Conservation Corps of the Inland Empire - California
Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (Colorado) - Colorado	Urban Corps of San Diego County - California
Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (New Mexico) - New Mexico	Utah Conservation Corps - Utah
Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps - California	Vermilion Community College - Minnesota
Santa Fe YouthWorks - New Mexico	Vermont Youth Conservation Corps - Vermont
San Francisco Conservation Corps - California	Virginia's Office on Volunteer and Community Services, and the Virginia Commission - Virginia
San Gabriel Valley Conservation Service Corps - California	Virginia Service and Conservation Corps - Virginia
San Joaquin Regional Conservation Corps - California	Washington Conservation Corps - Washington
San Jose Conservation Corps and Charter School - California	Washington Parks & People - District of Columbia
SEEDS Youth Conservation Corps - Michigan	Watershed Education Network - Montana
Selway-Bitterfoot Frank Church Foundation - Idaho	Weld County Youth Conservation Corps - Colorado
Sequoia Community Corps - California	The Wellness Coalition - New Mexico
SER-Jobs for Progress of the Texas Gulf Coast Inc. - Texas	Western Colorado Conservation Corps - Colorado
SER- Jobs for Progress National, Inc. - Texas	The Wetlands Initiative - Illinois
Siskiyou Mountain Club - Oregon	West-Mid Alabama Community Development Corporation, Inc. - Alabama
Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corps - California	White Mountain Youth Corps (WMYC) - Arizona
	Wilderness Inquiry - Minnesota



**THE PARTNERSHIP FOR  
THE 21ST CENTURY CONSERVATION SERVICE CORPS**

The Wilderness Institute - Montana  
Wilderness International Youth Conservation  
Corps - Oregon  
WisCorps - Wisconsin  
WSOS Community Action Commission, Inc. -  
Ohio

Wyoming Conservation Corps - Wyoming  
Yellowstone Youth Corps - Idaho, Wyoming,  
Montana  
Youth Conservation Corps - Illinois  
Youth Employment Program, Inc. - Idaho

STATEMENT OF: Joe Taylor, President/CEO of the Quad Cities Convention  
& Visitors Bureau

BEFORE THE: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

SUBCOMMITTEE ON: National Parks

CONCERNING: S. 2608, American Discovery Trail Act of 2016

DATE: March 15, 2016

The Quad Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau which serves the Iowa and Illinois Quad Cities supports S. 2608 to sign the American Discovery Trail on federal lands. The Quad Cities of Davenport/Bettendorf, Iowa and Rock Island/Moline, Illinois is now the headquarters of the American Discovery Trail as a result of a management agreement with the American Discovery Trail (ADT) Society. The memo of understanding outlines administrative, membership, financial and marketing services the Quad Cities CVB and its staff will provide the trail organization.

This agreement is an innovative, cutting-edge approach to manage and market both trails and destinations and meets the National Park Service goals of taking parks to the people especially in its centennial year.

The Quad Cities is enthusiastic about trails and providing hospitality for trail users. The central location of the Quad Cities and its visitor centers located immediately adjacent to the trail will serve hikers and bicyclists well as trail centers.

The National Park Service attended the 2006 National Trails Symposium when it was held in the Quad Cities and no doubt recalls how the community embraces trails and outdoor recreation.

What better way to connect to the Atlantic Ocean in Delaware and the Pacific Ocean in California than by way of the American Discovery Trail which under Sen. Kirk's legislation would mark the route on federal lands. Much like the first railroad bridge here in 1856 united the nation east to west, the ADT is positioned to unite the nation by trail from east to west and this legislation will help make that connection.

**Sewall-Belmont**  
**HOUSE & MUSEUM**  
*Home of the Historic National Woman's Party*

Energy and Natural Resources  
 Subcommittee for National Parks  
 The Honorable Bill Cassidy, Chair  
 The Honorable Martin Heinrich, Ranking Member

March 16, 2016


Dear Chairman Cassidy and Ranking Member Heinrich,

On behalf of the Sewall-Belmont House & Museum I write today to voice our strong support for S. 1975. Senator Barbara Mikulski has been a tireless advocate for women's history and for this museum and we remain grateful for her support.

The Sewall-Belmont House and the collection and archive of the National Woman's Party are well regarded especially by other museum professionals, by historians and other academics interested in women's movements for equality. Even so, inclusion of the House within the National Park System will increase the public's awareness of the House and its Permanent Collection well beyond the capability of the NWP acting alone. The proposed transfer therefore will actually significantly advance the goal of the NWP to educate the public about the important role played by Alice Paul and the NWP in advocating for equal rights for women.

Additionally, as stated in the Feasibility Study the National Park Service believes that its assumption of responsibility for the House as a historic site in perpetuity would help fill "identified gaps in the representation of women's history in the National Park System." It recognizes the uniqueness of the House in telling and preserving the story of Alice Paul as perhaps the leading Suffragist and the NWP in its mission to advance women's rights in the 20th century. By keeping the House open to the public year-round and providing interpreters to explain the House's significance, the National Park Service will expand the educational mission of the NWP to another level. It is an outcome which the supporters of the NWP would heartily approve, as the current membership has done in overwhelmingly voting to approve the proposed transfer.

Sincerely,



A. Page Harrington  
 Executive Director

144 Constitution Avenue, NE • Washington, DC 20002  
 202-546-1210 • Fax: 202-546-3997 • [www.sewallbelmont.org](http://www.sewallbelmont.org)

National Historic Landmark



**Testimony of Senator Jeanne Shaheen  
Before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks  
Hearing on National Parks Legislation  
March 17, 2016**

Chairman Cassidy, Ranking Member Heinrich and Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my remarks today before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks. It is most appropriate that as we celebrate the centennial of the National Parks Service, this Subcommittee review legislation critical to the preservation of our public lands and the historic and cultural resources of the Nation.

I am pleased that the Subcommittee has decided to focus on one of my bipartisan bills during today's hearing: the Wounded Veteran Recreation Act (S.119). This legislation, which I introduced with Senator Collins and is cosponsored by Ranking Member Cantwell and several members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, would provide veterans living with service-connected disabilities free, lifetime access to enjoy our national parks and other federal lands, thereby giving military men and women the opportunity to enjoy the American land they fought and sacrificed to protect.

As we all know, national parks and public lands protect the best of our natural and cultural heritage. These protected areas attract millions of visitors annually, help to protect America's unique wildlife and majestic forests, and form the basis of our economic and social wellbeing. Although their primary purpose is conservation, federal lands also deliver invaluable mental, physical and societal health benefits to Americans. For our veterans, access to national parks and federal recreation sites is also vital to rehabilitation.

For many veterans, the transition back to civilian life is often difficult. In addition to coping with physical injuries, veterans often must deal with mental health issues, including depression, trauma, anxiety and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Public lands provide much-needed respite for military families and allow for non-traditional methods of recovery, such as nature-based recreation, to help veterans cope with transition. In fact, a 2013 study from the University of Michigan found that veterans participating in extended outdoor recreation activities showed signs of improved mental health, with those experiencing the most severe on-going health issues benefiting the most.

Given the numerous benefits, it is essential that military men and women who have fought and sacrificed to protect American land be allowed to more easily access our nation's parks and recreational lands. Unfortunately, the federal agencies do not offer a pass specifically for veterans.

Under current law, a lifetime America the Beautiful—the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass (Lands Pass) is available to any U.S. citizen “who has been medically determined to be permanently disabled” (16 U.S.C. 6804). The definition includes “a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual.”<sup>(42)</sup>

U.S.C. 12102). Major life activities include: caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, etc. The definition sets a relatively high bar for qualification.

The National Park Service currently interprets that authority to include certain disabled veterans. However, there are significant differences between the statutory definitions for ‘permanently disabled’ among civilians and veterans with service-connected injuries under Title 38. Lack of statutory guidance has required the agency to make broad judgements about eligibility for veterans.

As a result, it is unclear to what degree disabled veterans can access the program. For example, many veterans are initially diagnosed with a service-connected injury but given a disability rating of zero. The diagnosis serves as recognition by the Department of Veterans Affairs that the veteran was injured while serving in the military; however, the severity does not yet merit disability payments. Many veterans receive this initial diagnosis and are later awarded a higher rating as the injury worsens over time.

My legislation, the Wounded Veterans Recreation Act, clarifies the current statutory language to ensure that all wounded veterans are eligible for free, lifetime access to America’s outdoor recreational treasures. Specifically, the Wounded Veterans Recreation Act would amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) to make the Lands Pass available, without cost, to a veteran with a service-connected disability. It would further require the Secretary to adjust entrance fees applicable to other visitors to ensure that there is not a loss in total entrance fee receipts due to implementation of this new pass.

This legislation has received broad support from veteran and conservation groups, including the Vet Voice Foundation, the Sierra Club Military Outdoors and the National Parks Conservation Association.

We owe it to our returning servicemen and women to do all we can to help them recover from experiencing the pain and suffering caused by war. This legislation will honor the service of our veterans who have all earned the right to lifetime access to our national treasures.



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION**  
 3601 NORTH DUPONT HIGHWAY  
 NEW CASTLE, DELAWARE 19720-6315

Lawrence E. Tan  
 Chief  
 (302) 395-8184  
 FAX: (302) 395-8177

Thomas P. Gordon  
 County Executive

May 11, 2016

Senator Lisa Murkowski  
 Chairman  
 Subcommittee on National Parks  
 Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
 304 Dirksen Senate Building  
 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski,

I would like to submit the following comments regarding the bill to establish a National Emergency Medical Services Memorial (S. 2628) that was included in the hearing on national parks legislation on March 17, 2016. The legislation would authorize the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a public memorial in the District of Columbia to honor, recognize and remember the service and sacrifice of emergency medical services (EMS) personnel that have died in the line of duty.

I am currently the Chief of Emergency Medical Services for New Castle County, Delaware. I am a Director Emeritus and Past President of the International Association of Emergency Medical Services Chiefs (IAEMSC). Unfortunately, I am all too familiar with the risks facing EMS personnel during the performance of their job duties and responsibilities. Tragically, virtually every state in our Nation has experienced a line of duty death involving an EMS provider.

There are few that would challenge the nobility of public service during times of emergency. On a daily basis, EMS providers deliver essential services to our communities and citizens under some of the most difficult conditions. It is appropriate that we, as a Nation, recognize those that have made the ultimate sacrifice and formally acknowledge their service. Other uniformed services such as law enforcement officers, firefighters and military personnel have national memorials to commemorate those who have died in the line of duty. To date, there is no memorial for fallen EMS personnel. The proposed legislation would rectify this discrepancy and recognize the sacrifices made by EMS personnel while in service to our Nation.



A NATIONALLY ACCREDITED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

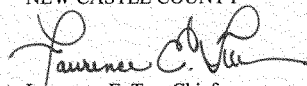
Chairman Lisa Murkowski  
May 11, 2016  
Page 2

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Thank you for your consideration of S. 2628 that was introduced by Senator Coons on March 3, 2016. I appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of the legislation to recognize the commitment and dedication of EMS personnel throughout the United States that have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Sincerely,

NEW CASTLE COUNTY



Lawrence E. Tan, Chief  
Emergency Medical Services Division  
Department of Public Safety



A NATIONALLY ACCREDITED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

Statement from Senator Jon Tester  
East Rosebud Creek Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (S. 1577)  
Subcommittee on National Parks Legislative Hearing  
March 17, 2016

MR. TESTER: Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you and Ranking Member Heinrich for including my East Rosebud Creek Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in today's hearing.

East Rosebud Creek flows from the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness in south central Montana down to where it joins West Rosebud Creek, forming the Stillwater River, and ultimately runs on into the Yellowstone. The water is clear, the kayaking is world class, and fishing there can net you trout worth bragging about. This creek is worth protecting.

My legislation would add a total of 20 miles of East Rosebud Creek to the Wild and Scenic River System. That includes 13 miles above East Rosebud Lake, and seven more on the downstream side. Designation will protect the free flowing nature of these areas, but leave them open to historical uses such as grazing and recreation.

These sections of the creek all lie on federal land managed by the Custer-Gallatin National Forest, so there will be no impact to private property. The Forest Service has already recognized the creek's outstanding scenic and recreational values, and proposed designating the creek as Wild and Scenic in its most recent forest management plan.

Montanans have been clear when speaking to me about this issue, and I have heard time and again overwhelming support from homeowners, businesses, conservation groups, and ranchers who have pursued a designation for years. This is also the second Congress running that Montana's entire Congressional delegation has come out in support of designating East Rosebud Creek. This will also be the first wild and scenic river designation Montana has seen in four decades.

This legislation is bipartisan, it has strong local support, and it makes sense. It protects one of the most scenic sections of creek in Montana while preserving the ways the river and the land around it is already used. If that isn't the right way to protect this creek for the next generation of Montanans, I don't know what is.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing me to speak about this important bill. I look forward to working with this Committee to enact this legislation.



March 31, 2015

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator  
506 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen,

We are writing to express our support for the Wounded Warrior Recreation Amendment (S.119), an amendment providing service connected disabled Veterans, a free pass to our national parks. The Vet Voice Foundation, is a non-profit organization, with a national network of nearly 500,000 Veterans dedicated to engaging in issues of civic importance, particularly in conservation.

Providing increased access to our national parks would be a great benefit to Veterans, their families, and communities. First as a matter of heritage, we see these parks and public lands as a part of the homeland we defended while in uniform. And in that sense, a part of the stewardship of invaluable cultural, biological, and scientific resources; to ensure continued recreational access and enjoyment; to benefit our economy; and to ensure that future generations can enjoy these lands as we can today.

Perhaps more importantly for us, this is about protecting opportunities for Veterans, active duty servicemen and women who find that the desert public lands offer places to recuperate from the stresses of overseas service (such as PTSD), to reconnect with family and friends, and reintegrate into civilian life after completing overseas missions. As Veterans, we need this amendment.

We are committed to doing what we can to preserve and protect, by wholly endorsing the Wounded Warrior Recreation Amendment, and the larger energy bill it is currently a part of. Please know that we at the Vet Voice Foundation will continue to offer our unfailing support to your efforts, and continue to make our voices heard for passage. Thank you so much for focusing your attention on creating greater access for these unique public lands.

Sincerely,

Steve Dunwoody  
California Director  
The Vet Voice Foundation

cc:

The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary, Department of Interior  
The Honorable Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, Council on Environmental Quality



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

[www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) | [info@vfw.org](mailto:info@vfw.org)

February 4, 2016

The Honorable Sam Johnson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2304 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

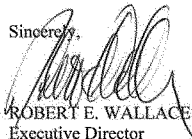
Dear Congressman Johnson:

On behalf of nearly 1.7 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and our Auxiliaries, I write in support of H.R. 1475 and its amendment to commemorate on the Wall of Remembrance the names of more than 33,700 combat deaths and 2,800 others who died in-theater supporting the Korean War.

The section of the National Mall where we reserve space to honor those who served, fought and fell during our nation's wars is toured by millions of visitors every year. It is also considered hallowed ground by visiting veterans, service members and their families, a place to remember, reflect and to give thanks.

The VFW is proud to support H.R. 1475 because it will help ensure our nation never forgets the service and sacrifice of ordinary Americans accomplishing extraordinary things under the most arduous of conditions. Thank you for your sponsorship and for the opportunity to add our voice to your legislation.

Sincerely,

  
ROBERT E. WALLACE  
Executive Director  
VFW Washington Office

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**

National Headquarters | 406 W. 34th Street | Kansas City, MO 64111 | 1.816.756.3390 | Fax: 816.968.1157  
Washington D.C. Office | VFW Memorial Bldg. | 200 Maryland Ave. N.E. | Washington, D.C. 20002 | 1.202.543.2239 | Fax: 202.543.6719

STATEMENT OF SENATOR MARK WARNER AND SENATOR TIM Kaine  
PETERSBURG NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD BOUNDARY MODIFICATION ACT

Members of the Committee, thank you for holding this hearing and for considering S. 718, a bill to modify the boundaries of Petersburg National Battlefield in the Commonwealth of Virginia. We are pleased to be joined in this bipartisan effort by our friends and colleagues Congressmen Randy Forbes and Bobby Scott, who recently worked to help report the House version of this bill (H.R. 1621) unanimously from the House Natural Resources Committee. We appreciate the support of the National Park Service and support the technical revisions to the bill it has proposed on both the House and Senate sides. We also wish to salute our friend Senator Jim Webb for his prior advocacy for this bill and for Civil War preservation generally.

The battlefields on American soil commemorate the events that made our nation what it is today. Yet too many of these sites are open to haphazard development that could leave no trace of the sacrifices made there.

This bill would authorize the National Park Service to accept acreage from some dozen parcels in and around the City of Petersburg to add to the National Battlefield. The land would be acquired only from willing parties and only through private donations, transfers, exchanges, or future appropriated funds. Nothing in this bill would mandate new spending. The bill would also execute two administrative land transfers between Petersburg National Battlefield and the current Army facility, Fort Lee, adjacent to the historic battlefield.

These parcels would help visitors better understand what life was like during the Siege of Petersburg. Unlike historic battlefields that occurred at a precise time and place, the Siege of Petersburg lasted 292 days and involved 108 separate battles and engagements, with multiple changes of fortune on both sides. The Union's eventual capture of Petersburg was decisive in bringing about the final surrender of Lee to Grant one week later at Appomattox, upriver of Petersburg. The Petersburg Campaign was also significant for the contributions of some 16,000 African Americans, comprising the largest corps of the U.S. Colored Troops. Fifteen of the twenty-five Medals of Honor awarded to the USCT during the Civil War were awarded for service in the battles around this region.

The lands identified for inclusion include the sites of 18 major battles during the siege. These sites are not currently protected within the National Battlefield and have been identified by the Civil War Trust as one of the most endangered groups of historic battlefields in the country. While Virginia's economic growth and expanding population are welcome signs that our state is a good place to live and work, these trends have also increased development pressures on important historical sites. Protecting these sites would promote better public understanding of the significance of this campaign.

We appreciate the tight budgetary times we live in and agree that all federal funding must be closely scrutinized. Whether or not this site can make the case for appropriated funds in the future, we believe NPS should at minimum have the authority to accept donations, exchanges, or transfers that can commemorate these lands and tell these stories.

Though it would be worth preserving these lands for historic value alone, Civil War tourism is also a thriving source of economic activity in Virginia. According to data from the National Park Service, more than 190,000 people visit Petersburg Battlefield annually, spending more than \$11 million and supporting some 150 local non-NPS jobs. According to a study by the Virginia Tourism Corporation, Civil War tourists stay twice as long and spend double the money of typical tourists.

We believe our nation's hallowed grounds in fast-developing regions like the I-95 corridor in Virginia can not only be protected but can be incorporated into the development around them. Passage of this legislation will ensure that the historic deeds done in and around Petersburg are fully commemorated for posterity.



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April 11, 2016

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
 Chairman  
 Committee on Energy & Natural Resources  
 United States Senate  
 304 Dirksen Senate Building  
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
 Ranking Member  
 Committee on Energy & Natural Resources  
 United States Senate  
 304 Dirksen Senate Building  
 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

On behalf of the Wyoming Tourism Board, I am writing to request support of S. 2039, a bill to designate the mountain at Devils Tower National Monument, Wyoming, as Devils Tower.

The Wyoming Tourism Board oversees the Wyoming Office of Tourism, the official state agency charged with promoting and facilitating increased travel to and within the state of Wyoming. For more than 50 years this office has been deploying marketing campaigns inviting visitors from around the world to experience the natural wonders of Wyoming. And, it's working! In 2015 over 10 million people visited Wyoming, spending over \$3 billion buying goods and services from Wyoming businesses. The travel sector supports over 30,000 jobs, and in Wyoming, that's substantial.

Each year the Wyoming Office of Tourism spends approximately \$6 million on a paid media campaign advertising the cornerstones of Wyoming's tourism industry, and our national parks and monuments, one of which is Devils Tower National Monument. These iconic features are known around the world and draw millions of visitors to Wyoming each year. Changing the name of an icon, such as Devils Tower, would be detrimental to the brand identity, costing the state millions in invested revenue. Changing existing advertising would be costly to the state as a whole. In addition to the monetary impact, the history of Devils Tower is legendary. The lengthy public comment period in 2015 demonstrates the strong support for preserving the Devils Tower National Monument designation.

Thank you for your careful and proactive consideration of this important legislation. We look forward to your favorable support.

Sincerely,

Sandy Newsome  
 Chairman  
 Wyoming Tourism Board

SN/vm